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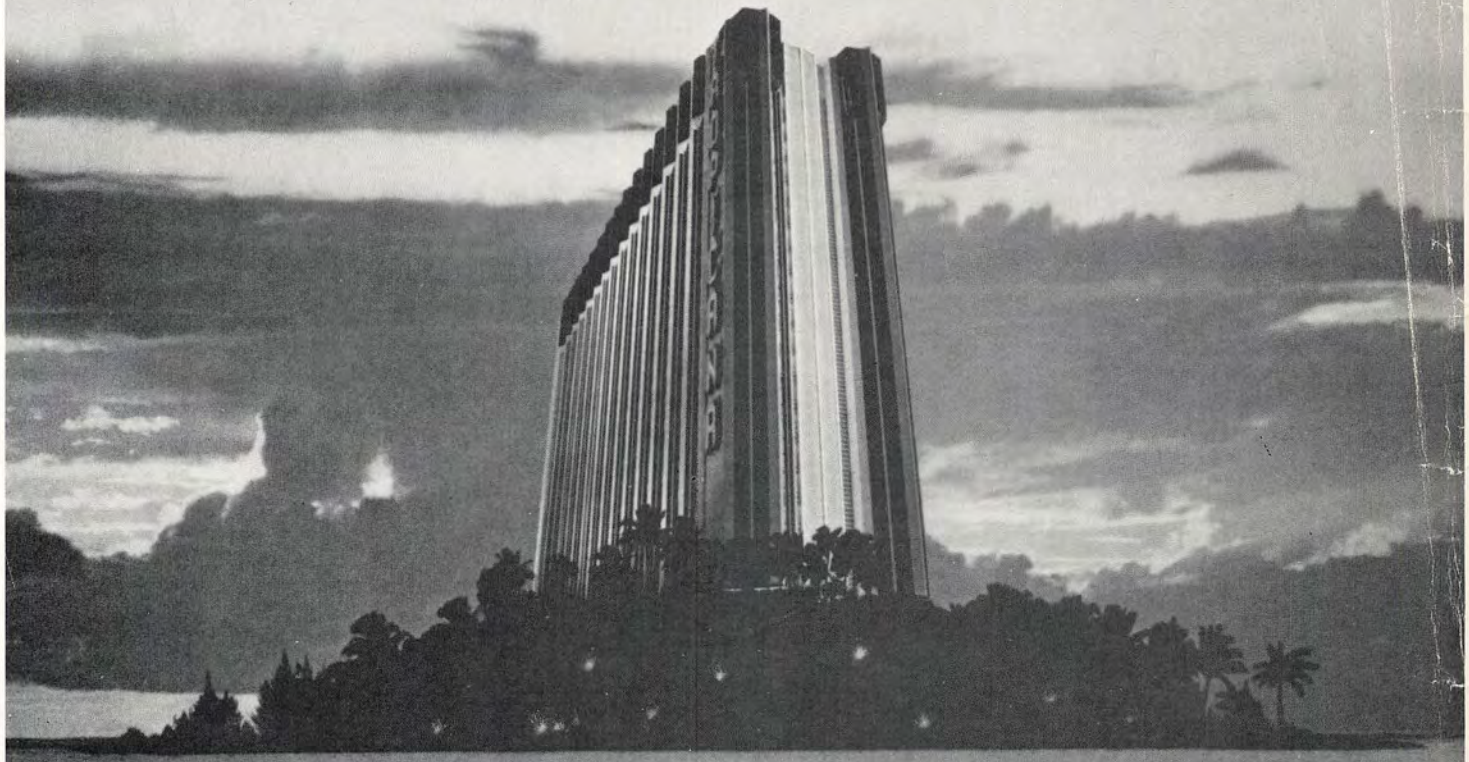

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WRESTLING EYE

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COVER PHOTO BY WILLIAM HART

WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP

Crystal Monroe

WRESTLING EYE

EDITORIAL

Steroids Are Bad News

In an earlier editorial, we supported the idea of using smaller wrestlers in addition to the current crop of heavyweights. WRESTLING EYE believes the lighter divisions would at least curb the harmful use of steroids (a drug used to increase muscular density). Many doctors have issued warnings of the health hazards associated with steroid use. The serious side effects include liver and kidney damage, excessive red blood cells, impotence, complications to the heart, and cancerous tumors.

Wrestlers who use steroids are usually looking for an edge in power and size. However, medical studies have shown steroids do not increase strength or bulk. The weight gain is simply a retention of water, not muscle.

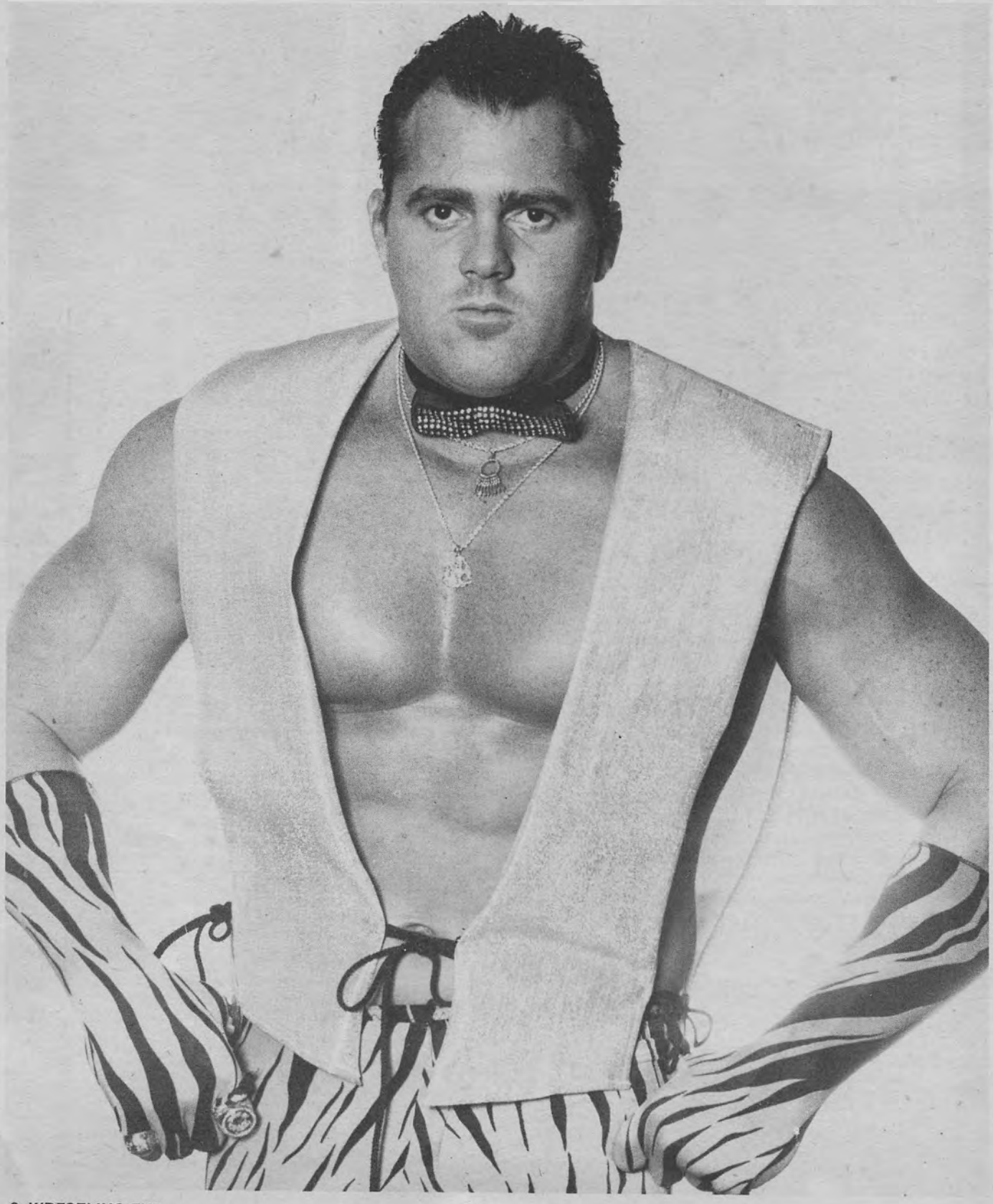
Pro and amateur wrestlers, as well as would-be grapplers, we urge you not to use these or any other non-prescribed drugs.

Mike

Mike Bellew
Managing Editor

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

Hogan's Little Brother



Call him what you will—Ed Leslie, Dizzy Hogan or Brutus Beefcake—he's a powerful competitor. (photo by Ed Bauman)

by Ed Garea

Photo by Pete Goldfield

It was during a televised match that the wrestling public was introduced to a sight of a rather large man strutting around the ring, oblivious to the other wrestlers in the ring and the crowd outside the ring. His only concern seemed to be with himself. This performance was repeated over the next two weeks while announcer Vince McMahon attempted to "identify" the young man. Finally, the WWF audience was given the name of this mysterious young man. Brutus Beefcake. Brutus Beefcake? The son of Mr. and Mrs. Beefcake? Wait a minute: Just who is this Brutus Beefcake, where does he come from, and where did he get that name?

Brutus Beefcake began life as one Edward Leslie and was brought into wrestling via the Brisco Brothers. Beefcake started in Memphis under the name of Ed Boulder. To keep him from getting lonely, he was given a brother in the form of Terry "the Hulk" Boulder (now known as Hulk Hogan). The Boulder brothers worked well enough, but didn't exactly make the ringspots quiver with anticipation. After a short stay in Memphis, Terry quit the act to work in the WWF as Hulk Hogan and Ed toured the Mid-South as Ed "Dizzy" Hogan. While not as successful as the Hulk, Dizzy nevertheless managed to eke out a living in the mid-South and the Northwest promotions. He even managed a couple of appearances in the WWF as Ed Boulder.

Times change, however, and Hulk Hogan hit it big as a star in the AWA. Seeing potential, Ed moved there also, not as Dizzy Hogan, but rather as Ed Boulder. This was the lowest point of his career, for he began to be reduced strictly to preliminary status, even losing to the Hulkster in a television bout. When the Hulk went to the WWF to become the champion, Ed went to Japan, where he worked under his real name and lost more bouts than he won. It was while in Japan that he got a call from WWF to join up. The Hulk had recommended him highly, and Vince McMahon saw the potential for a major star. But first, there had to be a few changes. First to go was the bleached blonde hair. After all, there were too, too many blonde heels. Next, a change of character; Ed was dressed up as a dandy and tagged with the moniker "Brutus Beefcake." This was a name the public won't soon forget. Next came the strategic move of letting Beefcake strut his stuff on TV. This created the interest before he was to actually wrestle, for don't forget, Beefcake came to the WWF without any real reputation.

Finally he made his debut, rather successfully, as a matter of fact. But what was needed now was a manager. After what seemed like months of deliberation, Beefcake chose Luscious Johnny Valiant as his manager. And the Luscious One did all the talking for his charge; Beefcake never uttered a word in the early going. Why should he, anyway, with Valiant to do the jabbering? At any rate, they were an instant phenomenon, attracting the interest of crowds everywhere they went. But the meteoric rise soon threatened to cool off rather drastically; Beefcake just wasn't impressive enough to

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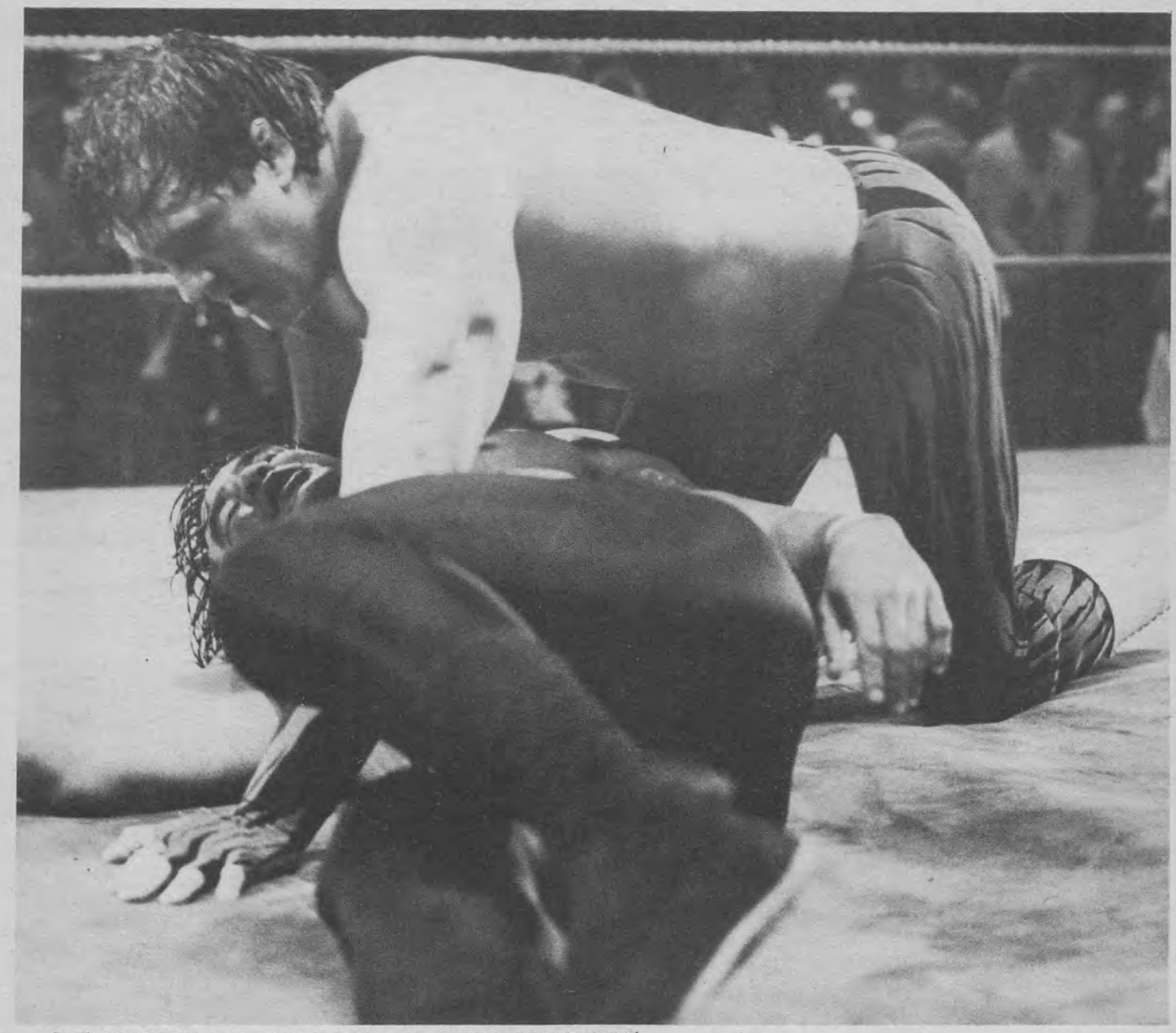
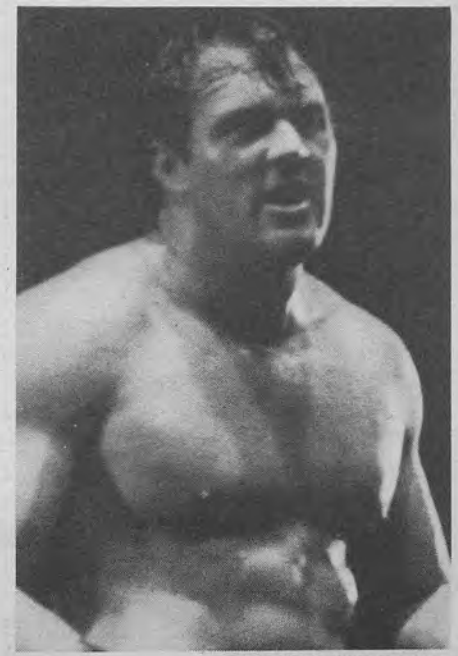


Beefcake puts the pressure on Rick Steamboat. (photo by Ed Bauman)

obtain title shots in the big cities. He did manage to get shots in the secondary arenas; for instance, he did not receive a shot at the Garden, but did get one at the Meadowlands Arena in nearby New Jersey; a big arena, but not the Garden, or the Spectrum, or the Civic Center, etc. It was noticed that Beefcake did his best work in short spurts, and so his brain trust sat down to ponder the problem.

As quickly as it had arisen, the problem was solved. It was easy: get Brutus a tag-team partner. One was found in the person of Greg Valentine, ex-Inercontinental champion. Valentine was used to tag action, having formed at one time one of the all-time great tag teams with Ric Flair. And Valentine proved just the right tonic for Beefcake. The duo immediately clicked, mowing down all opposition in their path until they secured a match with the then champions, Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo. The match proved to be grueling, and the champions gained a slight advantage. But through the intervention of Valiant, the challengers gained the victory and the belt. Windham was so disgusted, he soon left the area. Finally, Ed Leslie has reached the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow; a coveted title belt and all that goes with it. Will there be other titles to follow? Who can tell, though if he doesn't win, it certainly won't be for lack of trying. I just have the feeling that we'll be hearing the name "Brutus Beefcake" for a long time to come.



THE RATING GAME

Who's Right?

Kerry Von Erich is back in the NWA ratings, this after World Class Wrestling broke away from the Alliance for a few months. (Photo by Tony Kush)

By Ed Garea

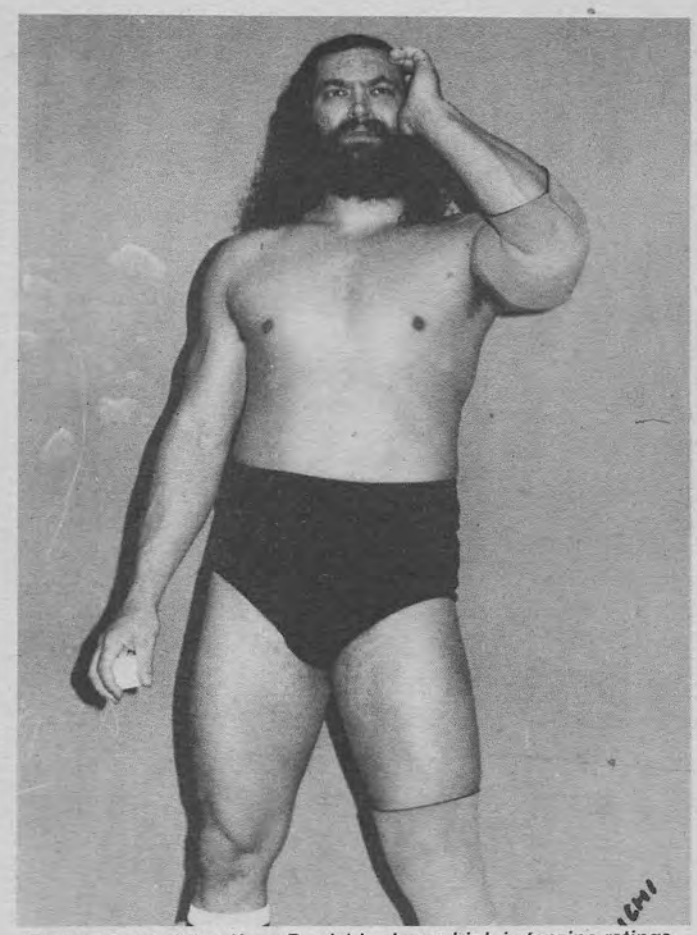
One of the biggest complaints in wrestling is the ratings. Everyone has a personal favorite whom they believe should be ranked higher, or a grudge with how the ratings are made up.

At first glance it seems as if this is much ado about nothing. After all, boxing organizations (WBC, WBA, and IBF) issue their ratings, as does the World Tennis Association. Football, baseball and basketball use win-loss statistics to rank their teams. Past performances are used in such individual sports as gymnastics and figure skating. Professional wrestling is the only sport which doesn't issue uniform official ratings. None of the three premier federations (NWA, AWA and WWF) have an official rating system. The rankings seen in wrestling magazines are formulated by their staffs.

Unlike boxing, where the average fighter may work only twenty bouts a year if lucky, the average wrestler can work two hundred bouts a year. Keeping track of the 500 top wrestling stars would be nearly impossible for anyone—especially if one should don a mask or use another ring name. Ratings based on win-loss records thus become meaningless. Also, wrestling is a regionally-based sport; certain contenders may not draw well in some cities. Wahoo McDaniel, for example, does great in Florida and Georgia, but is less popular in the Mid-West and California.

The Number One contender in Texas might not be considered the same in Oregon. In addition, as long as two wrestlers stay in separate territories, there's no chance for them to wrestle and decide who's actually worthy of the top spot. If you ranked wrestlers based on their ability to unseat the current champ, Andre The Giant would be #1 in all three groups. However, the Giant is happy globe-trotting and shows only a passing interest in a world title. Bruiser Brody is another fan favorite who would pose a serious threat to anyone. Other than NWA champ Ric Flair, no world champ wants to wrestle him. This being the case, Brody spends most of his career in Japan. In the NWA, the champ usually faces the local favorite. If he's wrestling in Texas, Flair will take on Kerry or Kevin Von Erich; in Florida, it's Mike Graham or Billy Jack Haynes. Yet, if a certain challenger does extremely well, Flair will wrestle him in matches across the country.

Flair has already done so with Magnum T.A., Dusty Rhodes and Nikita Koloff. The only problem with this is that while Ric is wrestling this steady challenger, regional contenders are being ignored. A breakthrough of sorts occurred in the Mid-South Wrestling Federation when it determined that the NWA champ (when he tours the area) must face the holder of the North American championship. This is the highest title one can attain in the Mid-

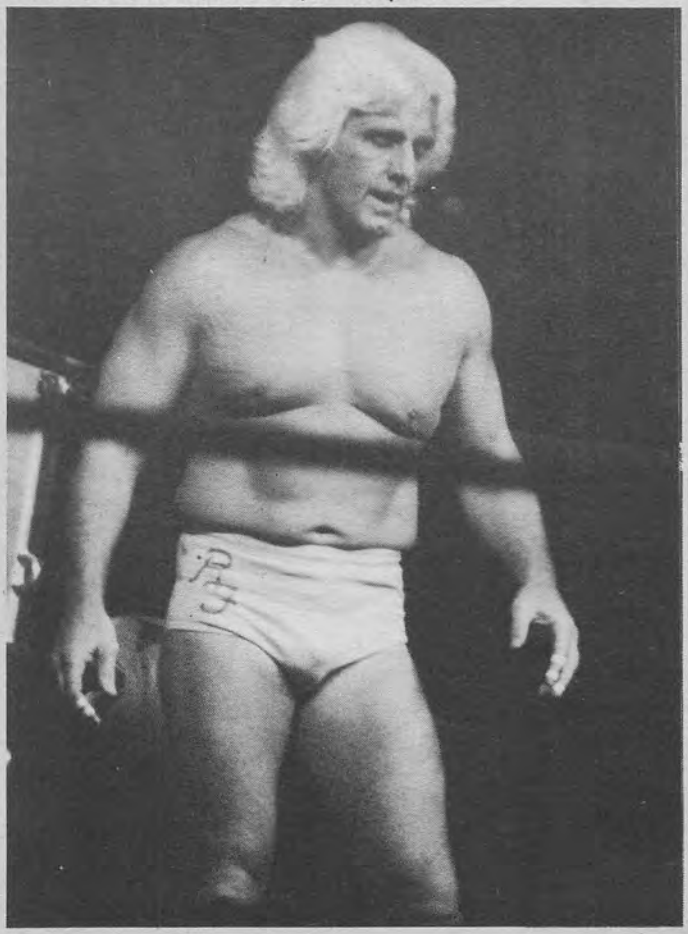


Bruiser Brody (King Kong Brody) is always high in fanzine ratings.

Rain or shine, Harley Race can always get a title shot. Why?

Ted DiBiase, a second-generation wrestler, is a capable wrestler who doesn't get 'official' high marks.

Ric Flair, one of the three major champions



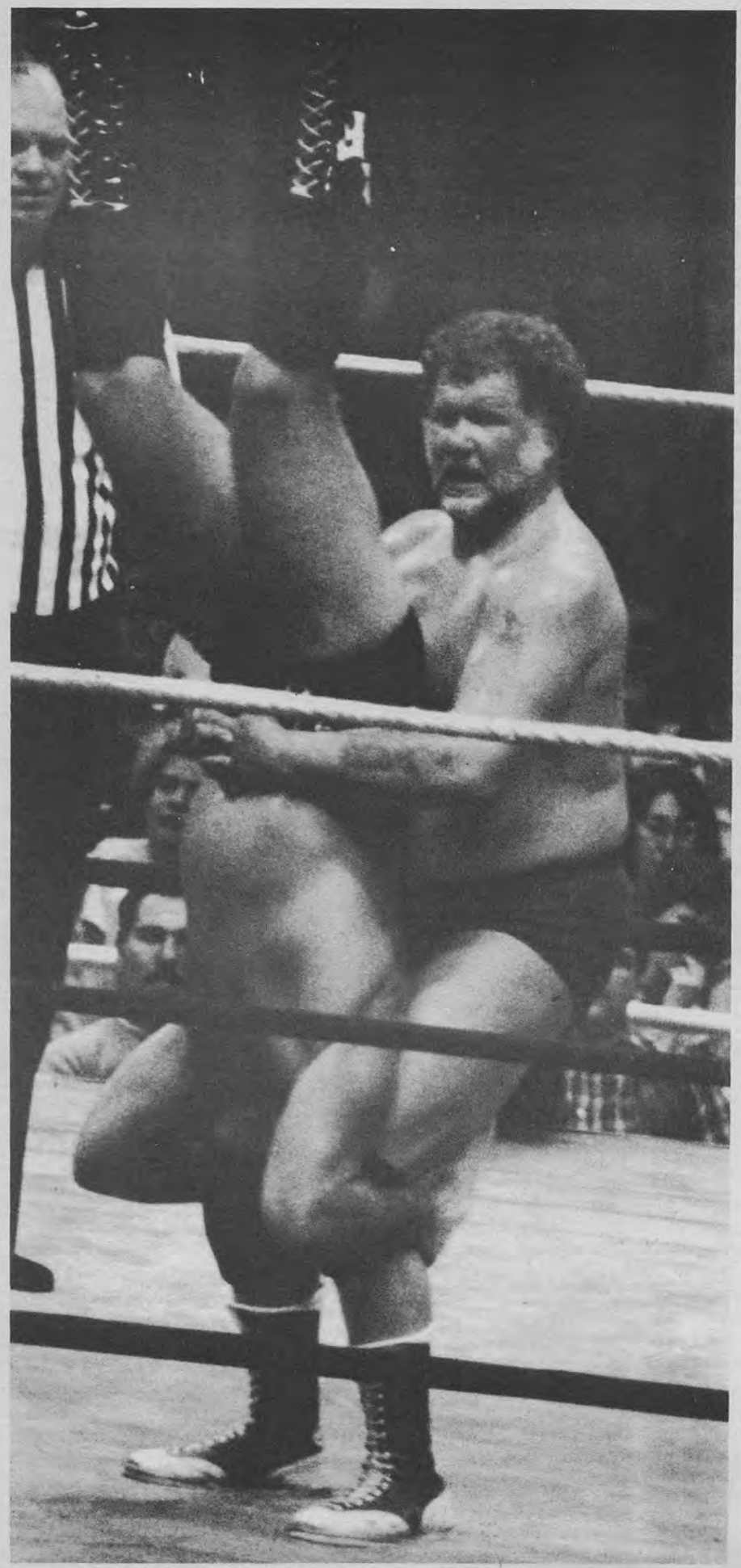
Mr. T had never wrestled before, but he had no problem tag teaming with WWF champ Hulk Hogan.

South, and the idea makes some sense.

In the AWA, champ Rick Martel has wrestled opponents as diverse as Kimala, the Ugandan Giant, and the All-American, Brad Rheingan. However, he hasn't offered to wrestle Sgt. Slaughter—the Americas champ. Some fans believe that the holder of a national belt should receive mandatory cracks at the world belt. This would mean Hulk Hogan would have to wrestle Tito Santana, the holder of the Intercontinental title. Ric Flair would have to face the National champ, and Martel would lock-up with Slaughter. This would pit the best wrestler against the second best, or so some believe. Still, it isn't necessarily true. Tito Santana might hold the Intercontinental belt, but could he beat Randy Savage? In many cases, the national champs act as 'policemen' protecting the world champ. A possible challenger for the world belt might first wrestle the national champ. The national champ then reports the challenger's strengths and weaknesses to the world champ. Sometimes national champs are used on cards where the world champ is unable to attend.

In rating the WWF stars, it's practically senseless to rank the Junkyard Dog or Paul Orndorff, since they are automatically barred from wrestling WWF champ Hulk Hogan. The WWF promoter thinks it's bad business to match baby face against baby face. In the interest of fair play, WRESTLING EYE ranks all WWF wrestlers by their ability to beat each other. This may help their morale, but it can't help their cause.

A good guy-turned-bad in the WWF will not be much better off. This wrestler now becomes a newcomer and goes to the near-bottom of the Top Ten. He must fight his way up; meanwhile, the top guys are also bad-guys, who he can't



wrestle. This frustration has lead past challengers (like Larry Zbyszko and the late Peter Mavia) to attack the WWF champ on television.

Women wrestling is equally confusing. Most wrestling magazines don't even bother trying to figure out their ratings and won't run their Top-Ten. In tag teams, there are very few permanent partners and so it's impossible to select a team worthy of challenging the current champs—Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre. In individual matches, who would have ever guessed Moolah would regain the world belt? WRESTLING EYE considered her a manager, and retired. The Spider Lady who wrestled Wendi Richter was clearly not the same wrestler we had seen previously. The original Spider Lady was a novice, never rising above sixth in our world ratings. Since the WWF has taken over the world women's belt, independents like Liz Chase, Debbie Combs and Despina Montogas have not received title opportunities. These women are all qualified contenders and WRESTLING EYE rates them as such.

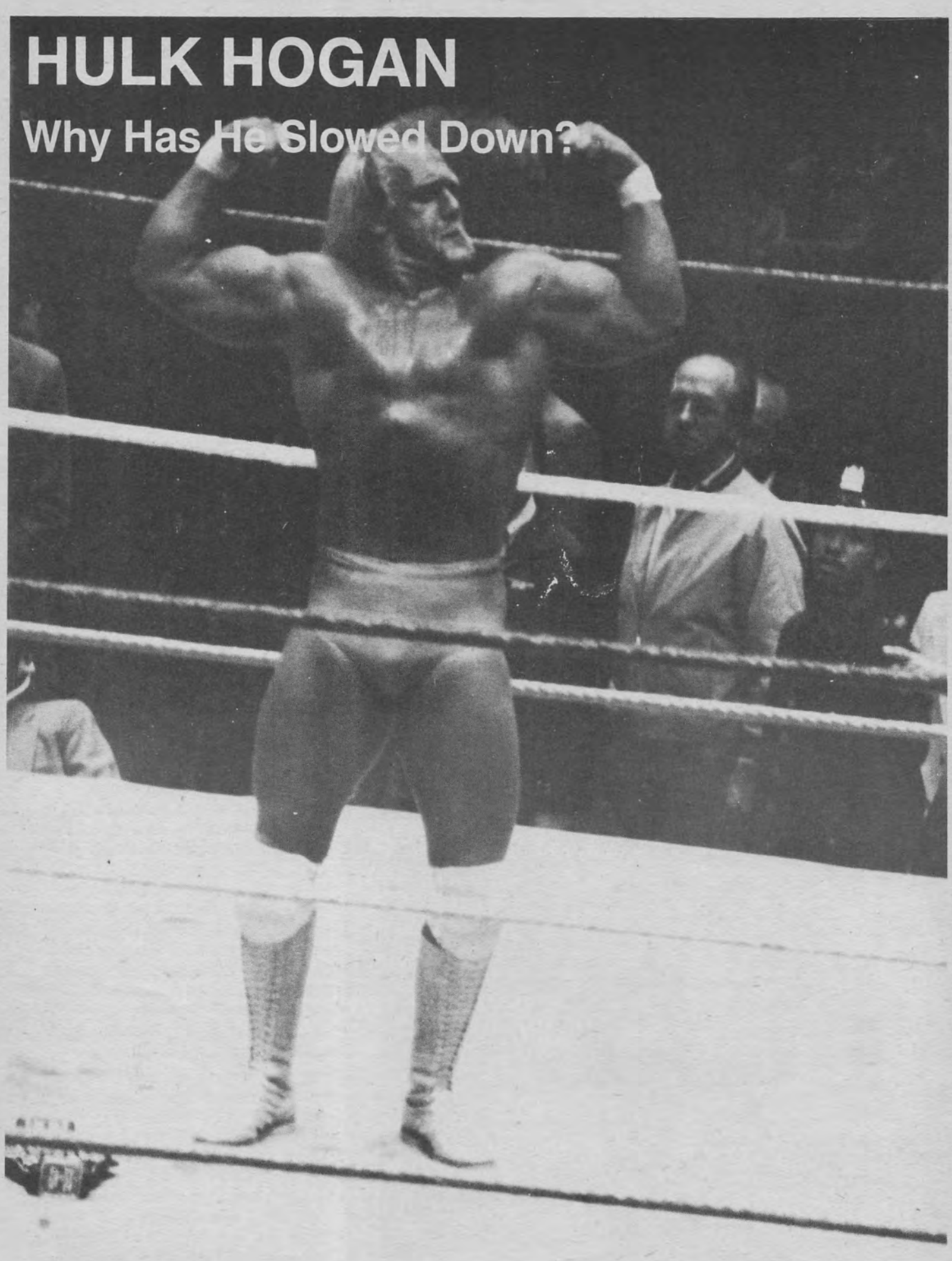
The NWA-AWA ladies champ is rated beneath the WWF champ because the WWF has the historical linkage of Moolah's long reign. Perhaps in time, due to ability of their titleholders, the NWA-AWA champ will merit the top spot.

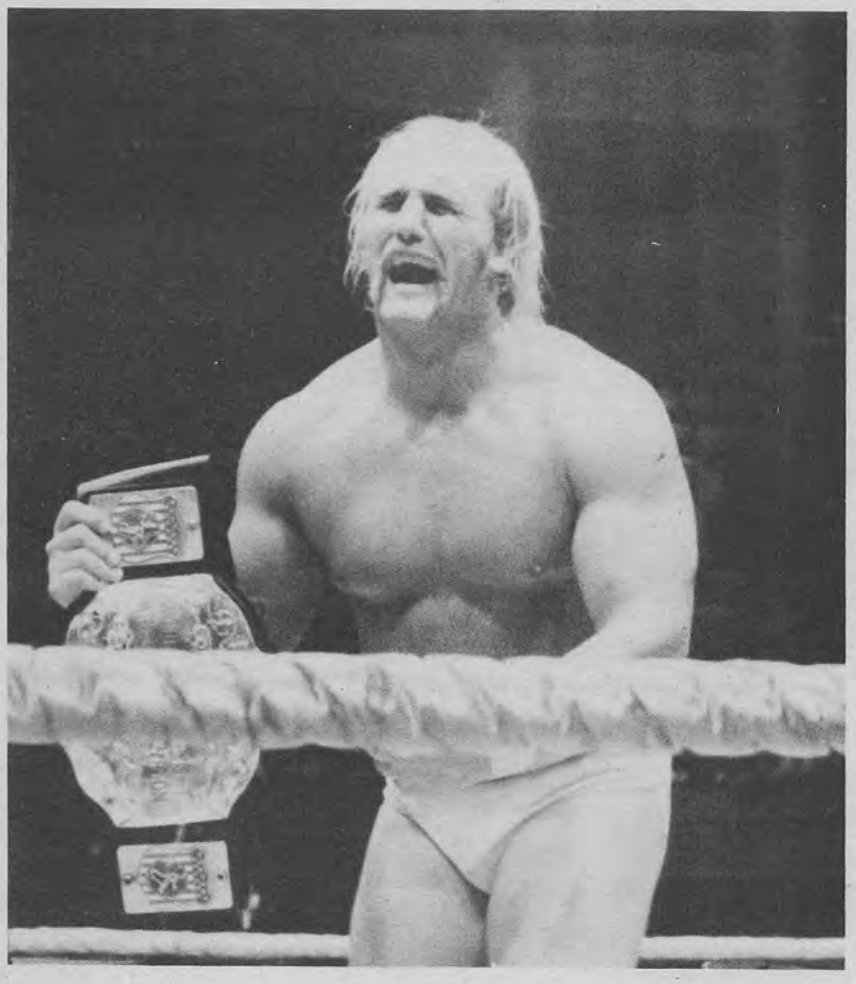
We are still left with the fundamental question of whether ratings really matter, anyway. Mr. T was not only unrated but untested in the sport. Yet, that didn't prevent him from teaming with the WWF world champ in a main event against two other top contenders. Often, ratings are only a popularity contest. The wrestler who goes over the best with the fans gets the shot, rather than the one deemed worthier by his peers and critics.

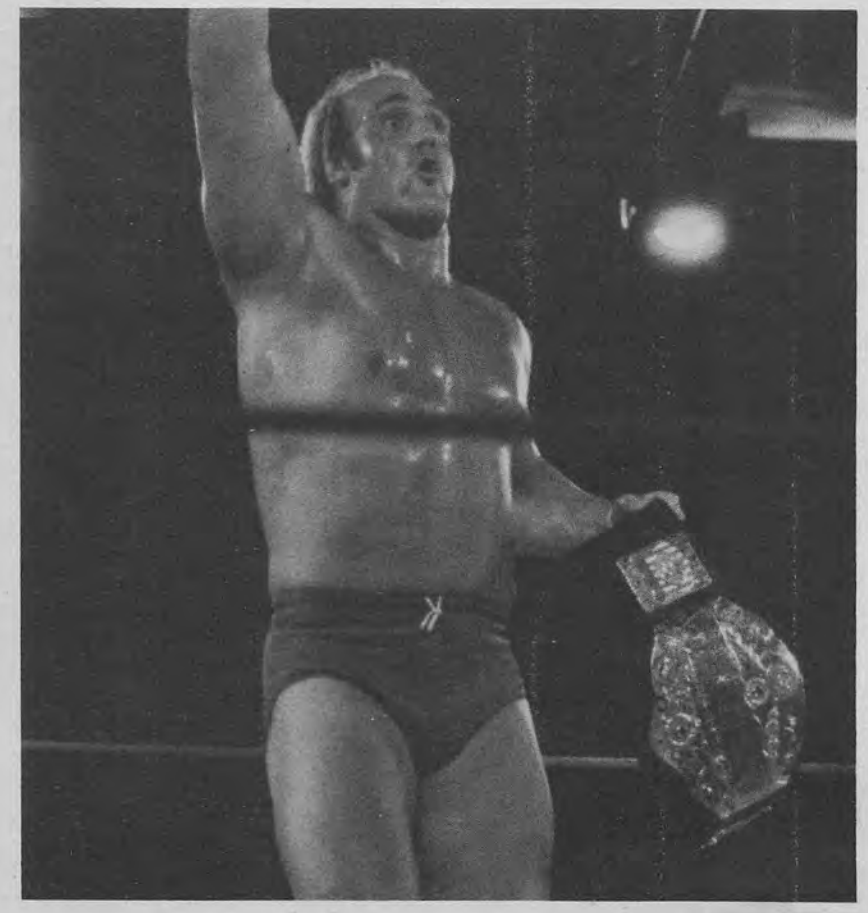
A uniform set of ratings based on ability would be ideal. At the present time, there is no easy solution, WRESTLING EYE is doing it's part, basing our rankings on skill, not showmanship. For the sport of wrestling, this is a radical departure, indeed.

HULK HOGAN

Why Has He Slowed Down?







By Mike Bellew

Photo by Linda Platt

Apparently, Hulk Hogan has become a shadow figure in wrestling circles. He's there in spirit, and in word, but not in person. They say after you win the title, you work twice as hard—but this isn't true in the Hulkster's case. He's taking the time to enjoy his reign. No one's going to see him wrestling on any small-town cards. It's either New York, Boston, Chicago, Tokyo, L.A., or his hometown, Tampa for Hogan.

On Jan. 23, 1984, Hulk Hogan ended one of the shortest rules of a WWF champion. The Iron Sheik had only captured the belt 26 days earlier, before losing to Hogan. The 6′10″, 300-pound challenger started quickly against the Sheik, dropping the defending champ with a series of 'clothes-lines'. The Sheik rallied, even catching Hulk in the 'camel-clutch', but Hogan came back and pinned him at 5:04. Having the belt in hand, he promised to be 'the best champ possible.'

In those early days, it looked as if he would fulfill that promise. Hogan made his first defense on Feb. 20, against Paul Orndorff, before 26,092 fans at Madison Square Garden. He pinned Orndorff after 12 minutes of action. The Hulkster toured the country and Japan after this, coming back to New York to defeat Dr. David Schultz. For Hogan, whose 24-inch biceps are called 'pythons', the only dangerous challenger has been 'Big' John Studd. At 6′11″ and weighing 375 pounds, Studd is one of the few opponents who can look eye-to-eye with the champ. In their very first clash, Sept. 22, 1984, the Hulkster was bloodied and counted-out. In a see-saw battle, Studd cut Hogan over the right eye early on. This cut hampered the champ, as he spent much of the time trying to stem the blood flowing into his eye. At the 10:45 mark, Hogan was knocked out of the ring and counted out. Ringside observers are generally divided as to whether Hulk Hogan deliberately took advantage of the undecisive finish.

Afterwards, Hogan's conviction changed. He opted for tag team

Hulk Hogan vs. Jesse Ventura (Photo by Linda Platt)

matches over title defenses. At the same time, a record album he recorded at the Smoky studios in Japan was released stateside. The World of Show Business was more and more interested in Hulk Hogan. Warner Brothers and NBC proposed a TV series for him. Hogan would star in a male version of the popular 'Charlie's Angels'. His show was to revolve around three "big guys" hired by a young woman who is running her own detective agency. Sounds like the 'A-Team' meets 'Remington Steele,' doesn't it? The pilot was never filmed, and whether McMahon or Hogan turned it down isn't clear. About this time, Hogan did the one-shot 'Goldie and the Three Bears'.

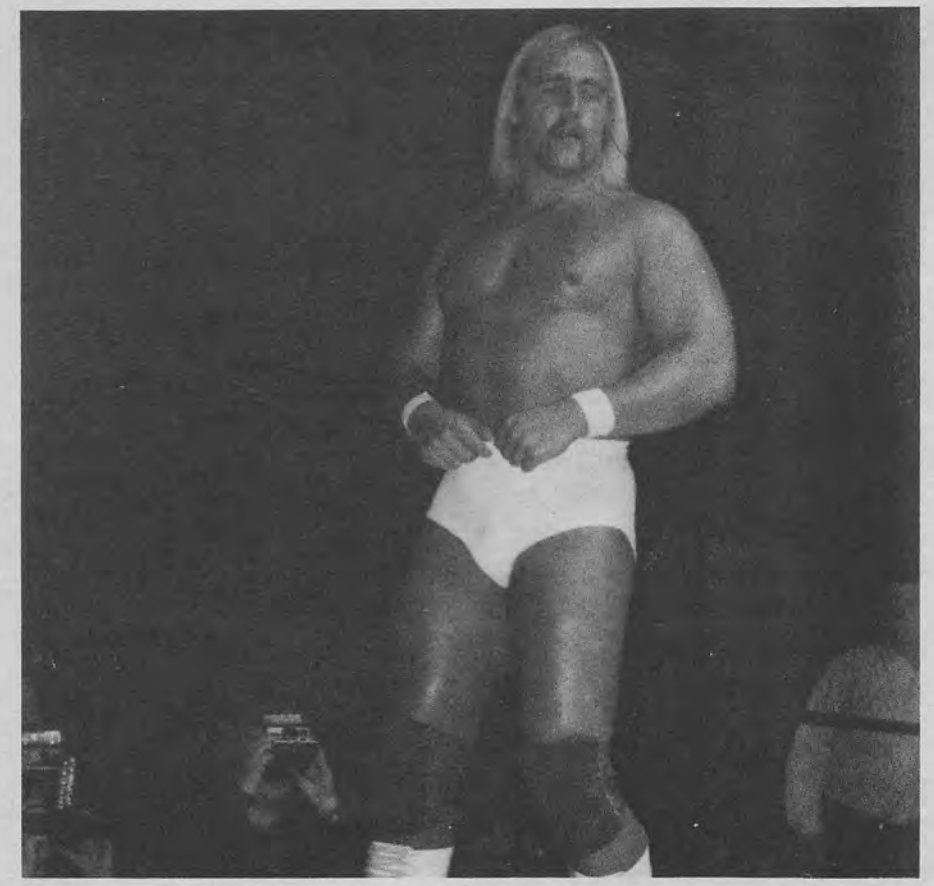
This involvement with Hollywood has certainly slowed down our boy. Last year, he took off a great deal of time to do a segment of 'The Love Boat' and a cameo on the 'A-Team'.

In a 1983 interview for the Rockford Register Star, Hogan said he wasn't interested in movies. "I'm sticking to wrestling. I had some movie offers. But they only paid a couple of grand and it was like 'Hey, we're giving you a break kid,'" said Hogan. "In wrestling, I'm at my peak. A few more years of this and I'll be set, so why give up now? I still have the William Morris Agency calling about doing commercials, but there's no money in it."

After WRESTLE MANIA in March 1985, Hogan vanished out-of-sight. The opinion here was that McMahon wanted to use him more judiciously. By having him wrestle less, the ticket-buyers were more eager to see him. 'Over-exposure' has killed more careers than it has helped. Between his wrestling appearances, Hogan is also on T-shirts, magazine covers, calendars, school bags, Halloween costumes and a doll. Wrestling fans aren't about to pay for someone they see everyday. Promotionally, maybe there aren't any real contenders for Hogan. The recent title match against Roddy Piper was a joke. Even his closest challenger, Randy 'Macho Man' Savage, is much smaller than Hogan. In the third 'Saturday Nite Main Event', Hogan wrestled a man his equal in size—Nikoli Volkoff. It was an interesting match-up, but Volkoff doesn't have Hogan's speed, and that was the turning point in their match.

Perhaps Hulk Hogan is afraid to wrestle more often. On the 'Tonight Show', he told Johnny Carson: "I wish the matches were fixed, then it would be a lot easier. Professional wrestling is the cream of the crop. It's mostly the wrestlers that come from the Olympics that get into professional wrestling. Right now, I wrestle in main events all across the country and if it were fixed it would be much easier for me. But instead, it's like a fight for your life every time you step in there."

"It's definitely dangerous. So many people talk 'bad' about professional wrestling and I just wish I could take everyone here and spend 15 or 20 seconds with you, I'd make believers out of all of you." Later, when Joan Rivers hosted the 'Tonight Show', Hogan said, "We have no off-season and we work all year round." Hogan might be the first wrestling champ to establish an on-and-off season of wrestling. The champ may not be wrestling because he makes too much money. That's right, too



Hulk Hogan has been champ since Jan. 23, 1984. He pinned the Iron Sheik in less than six minutes.

Hogan (here, shoulder-blocking Tito Santana) is taking it easy these days.

much money. He and his wife (there are no little Hulksters yet) only need so much to live on.

Although, he wouldn't say how much he makes, Hogan is likely the highest-paid wrestler ever. "Well, I don't want to comment on that," said Hogan in 1985. "No, the IRS isn't after me. I've got a good rapport with Uncle Sam, I'd like to keep it that way." A big bank account means Hogan can wrestle 2-to-3 nights a week. The WWF's expansion into new territories also makes the Hulkster a bi-coastal champ. He must defend his belt equally on both coasts. Naturally, this means spending less time touring any region. It's estimated that Hulk Hogan wrestled only 100 matches in 1985.

Yes, Hogan has slowed down.

The final explanation is in regard to the champ's health. He's in great shape, but he does have a chronic bum left knee. Last year, Hulk-watchers expected the champ to vacate the title and have an operation on the joint. Paul Orndorff, Roddy Piper and Terry Funk were all prime candidates to replace him. This, however, did not come to pass. The WWF titlist has either had the knee surgery without a public announcement, or he is still wrestling with the injury. To fully recover from such an operation, the champ would have had to be out-of-action for at least a year. Hulk was not. Therefore we assume the knee is still bad, which is strange for Hogan, who is very concerned about his conditioning. "They called me for a 'Fall Guy' episode. About 10 days of work and they only wanted to give me $500 a day. I can't afford to take four weeks off, not train and mess my wrestling up for three or four months."

Such a comment makes it hard to believe Hogan would risk wrestling on a bad knee. However he has slowed down, and it's doubtful we are ever going to see him wrestle all-out again.

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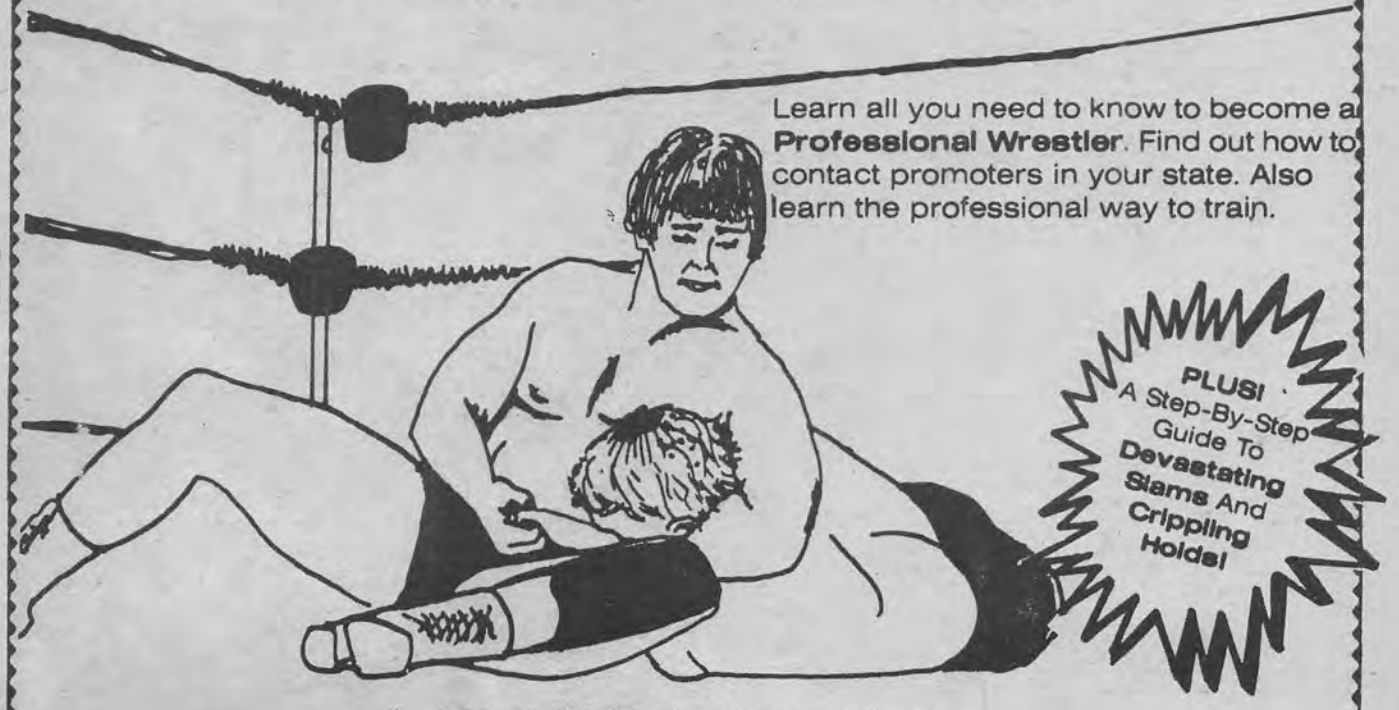

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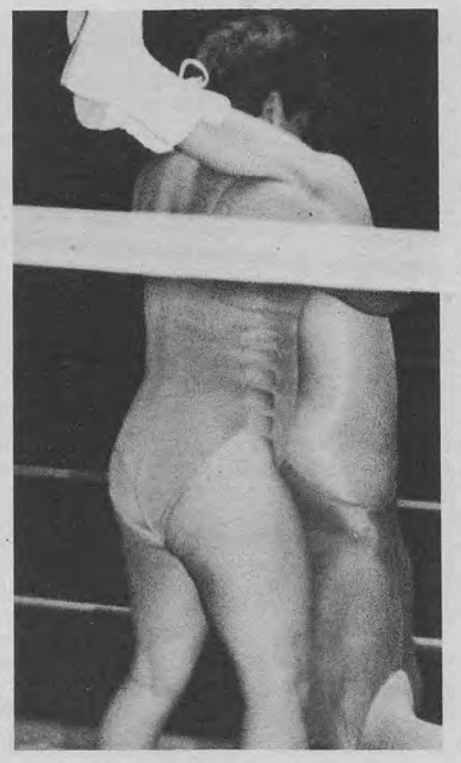

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MEDIA REPORT

The Making Of A Phenomenon

Harley Race and Ric Flair are but two of the stars in the video 'Lords of the Ring'. The 60-minute tape looks hurried.

There has never been anything in the history of wrestling that can quite equal the media success of the WWF. Due to the aggressive expansion under Vince McMahon Jr., we are now treated to three syndicated TV shows a week, complete with sponsors (a breakthrough): a line of wrestling dolls that can be bent and twisted; a wrestling album with original songs sung by the stars themselves; wrestling bubble gum cards like baseball cards; and a monthly network special. No other promoter can match this.

McMahon is also doing something else quite unheard of in wrestling: he is registering the wrestlers' names, from Hillbilly Jim to the Junkyard Dog. The only exceptions to this, I am told, are the Dynamite Kid, Davey Boy Smith, and Andre the Giant, as they did not sign exclusive contracts with the WWF. What this means is that McMahon owns the rights to the name and character. If Uncle Elmer leaves and wishes to work elsewhere, he can't do it as Uncle Elmer. In some cases this is fair, as McMahon did develop the name

But there are cases where the name and persona were built up before the wrestler even heard of McMahon, such as Roddy Piper, Ivan Putski and Bruno Sammartino. I don't think McMahon has much of a legal leg to stand on if they defect. However, the money and perks are so far superior in the WWF (at least for the big names) that I can't see anyone leaving in the near future.

Video buyers might be interested in GREATEST SPORTS LEGENDS—BRUNO SAMMARTINO. This cassette gives a nice, well-rounded look into the career of the man who became a 'living legend' on the Eastern Seaboard. For those of you not aware of it, this 30-minute tape is actually one of the televised syndicated episodes from the series of the same name. The program is still on in many markets, so check your local listing before going out to purchase this one. At any rate, at $9.95 (suggested retail price) it's a good deal. LORDS OF THE RING looks like a rushed attempt to beat Titan Sports (WWF) to the local video stores. Although it contains terrific matches and excellent camera work, this 60-minute tape simply looks hurried. Something of this caliber should have been prepared in chronological order, instead of jumping back and forth through time without any continuity. I would recommend it for rental, but not for purchase.

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS, published by Archway Paperbacks and written by Daniel and Susan Cohen, is an informative little book. At least they got Hulk's name and earlier beginnings correct. However, it's strictly an outsider's look at the pro sport. Ricky Steamboat is covered with no reference to his father and pro wrestler, Sammy Steamboat. Paul Orndorff is written about with no mention of his younger brother and pro wrestler, Terry. The real names of the Road Warriors aren't mentioned. Or the fact that they, Joe Laurendas and Mike Heustiand, were high school buddies. These are the facts only an insider can reveal. Still, it's worth the price of $2.25.

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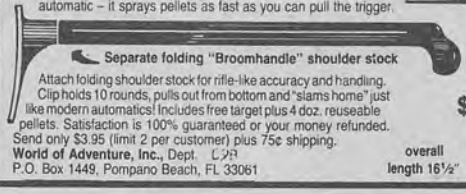

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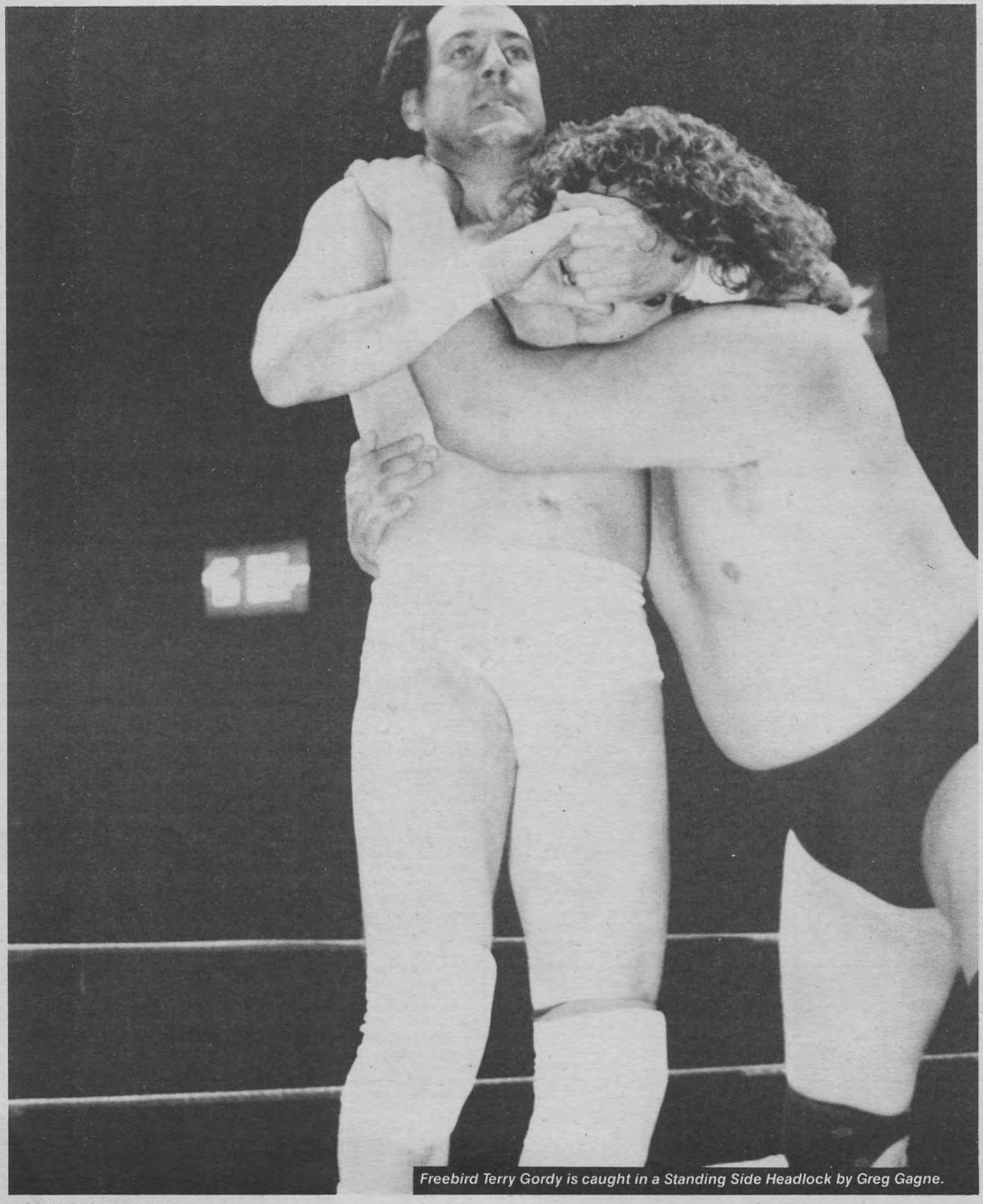
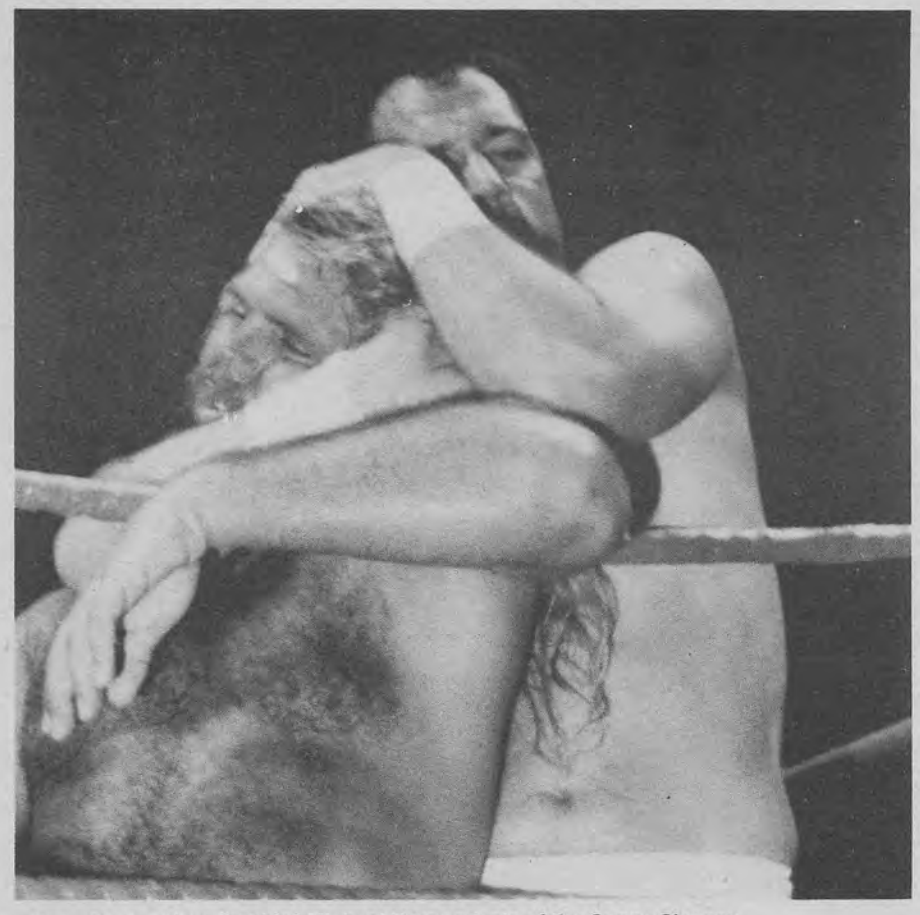
GREG GAGNE

Out From The Shadow Of A Legend



Freebird Terry Gordy is caught in a Standing Side Headlock by Greg Gagne.



Greg Gagne gives Freebird Michael Hayes a taste of the Gagne Sleeper.

Greg Gagne gets rough and nasty forcing the throat of Michael Hayes over the rope.

Photos and Story by Frank Amato

When you decide to enter the world of professional athletics, it becomes a long tough grind. You must be good to make the grade. After making that grade it becomes much tougher to rise to the very top. When you are the son of a very famous athlete, all eyes are upon you. When your father is a legend and you enter the very same field quickly, everyone compares. Such is the case of one Greg Gagne.

Greg Gagne is a professional wrestler just like his famous father, Verne Gagne. Verne is now retired from active combat but his legend lives on. He left behind many records which include holding the AWA World Heavyweight Championship eleven times, a phenomenal feat that may never be broken. Verne Gagne accomplished much more, but this article is about Greg Gagne.

Right now Greg goes it alone. He has championship aspirations. He eyes the AWA World Heavyweight Championship held by Rick Martel. He wants to be co-holder of the AWA World Tag Team Championship. Greg also looks forward to winning the AWA World Light-Heavyweight Championship held by Steve Regal. It's the tag team belts which Greg seeks first. They are currently held by Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin and Steve Regal.

The AWA World Tag Team Championship has been held by Greg Gagne along with "Jumping" Jim Brunzell on two occasions. On July 7, 1977 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, they defeated Cowboy Bobby Duncum and Blackjack Lanza. Over a year later Brunzell injured a leg which required surgery. The AWA had no recourse but to strip Greg and Jim of the belts, due to inactivity.

The tag team belts exchanged hands a few times in the following three years but on June 14, 1981 in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell captured the belts from Jesse "The Body" Ventura and Adrian Adonis. It was several months later that Crusher Jerry Blackwell and Ken Patera emerged victorious over Greg and Jim for the belts, in 1982.

Since that time Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell tried countless times

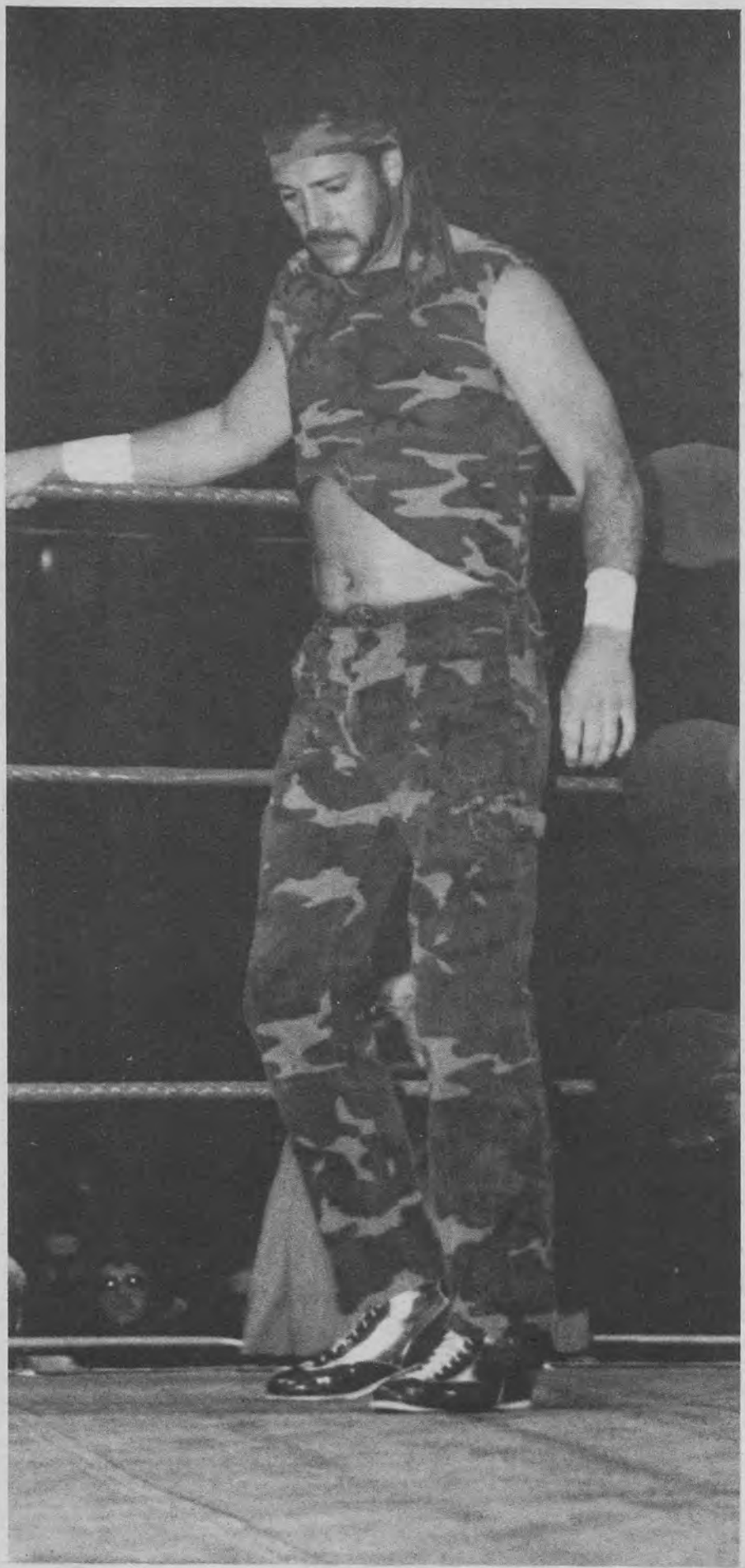
Greg Gagne sits nice and easy but Freebird Terry Gordy has himself caught in a Side Headlock.

to regain the belts from Blackwell and Patera, but failed. Later when The Road Warriors, Hawk and Animal, wore the AWA World Tag Team Championship, Greg and Jim pushed hard in title matches but came up short. Then in the summer of 1985 Greg lost his longtime tag team partner Jim Brunzell, who bolted to the WWF.

This parting, which came suddenly, left Greg seeking a new tag team partner. Greg has been teamed with Curt Henning, Scott Hall, Baron Fritz Von Raschke, Sgt. Slaughter and even his father Verne Gagne. Verne had donned the tights to team with Greg to battle arch rival Nick Bockwinkle and Mr. Saito.

In a wild tag team match witnessed on TV, Greg and Verne won a major upset over Bockwinkle and Saito. Outside the ring Greg and Verne were being interviewed when Bockwinkle and Saito attacked them. Verne was hit by a chair, and Bockwinkle captured a hurt Verne Gagne into a Piledriver and crashed Verne's head onto the concrete floor. This caused a serious neck injury to Verne, who has never donned the tights again.

This incident had a major effect on Greg Gagne. He swore revenge, on Nick Bockwinkle especially. Greg also knew he must change his attitude inside the ring. He always abided by the rules and only became unruly when the cause was needed. Now entered Sgt. Slaughter. Slaughter took Greg in tow and brought him to Camp Slaughter. It was here that the transformation of Greg Gagne



Greg Gagne decked out in his new warrior image from Camp Slaughter.

took place. Slaughter put Greg through a training regimen just like the marines. From it emerged a new Greg Gagne, more intense, his body hardened. Now Greg wore a camouflage warfare shirt and pants.

Greg explains his new look inside the ring, "My father always told me that rules were made for a reason. Try not to break them unless absolutely necessary. I lived by the rules. Then came that horrible incident. I knew then my attitude must change. I knew the only man who could instill this new attitude was Sergeant Slaughter. Sarge put me through a living hell for several weeks. If Bockwinkle wants war, he's got it. If others want war, I'm ready."

The new Greg Gagne has been fighting fire with fire. Opponents may refuse to admit it, but they have a new respect for Greg. He seeks matches with Nick Bockwinkle at every turn. Another wrestler Greg has been having a feud with is Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin. They've been battling for many months now and every time Greg manages to get Garvin into a no-win situation, in comes Precious.

Precious is the valet-manager of Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin. She wields an aerosol can which she sprays into the eyes of opponents. Greg has been victim of Precious' attack with the aerosol many times. One recent incident prevented Greg from putting Garvin to sleep with his Sleeperhold. This incident caused the AWA to ban Precious from ringside. This ban only lasted a few weeks though.

Greg feels the AWA should have been tougher: "Precious is getting away with murder. She's dangerous. That is a weapon she uses and Garvin escapes defeat. Whatever is inside that aerosol can burn the eyes. A wrestler can become blind, if she isn't stopped."

Greg Gagne would like to wear the AWA World Heavyweight Championship. When Nick Bockwinkle was champion, Greg received many title matches but always fell short of his goal. Right now he's taking one step at a time. He's become his own man. He has come out of the shadow.

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CHAMP HANSEN

The Possibilities Are Endless Waiting In The Wings

In the Upset of '85, Stan 'The Lariat' Hansen beat Rick Martel for the AWA world's heavyweight championship. The end for Martel came on December 29, in the New Jersey Meadowlands Arena. As the final match on a card entitled 'Night of Champions II,' Rick's loss was a shock—all the other champions had successfully retained their belts. Hansen trapped the defending champ in a Boston Crab leglock. Rick tried, but couldn't muster the leverage needed to throw-off the challenger. With unbearable pain stabbing into the small of the back, Rick could take no more.

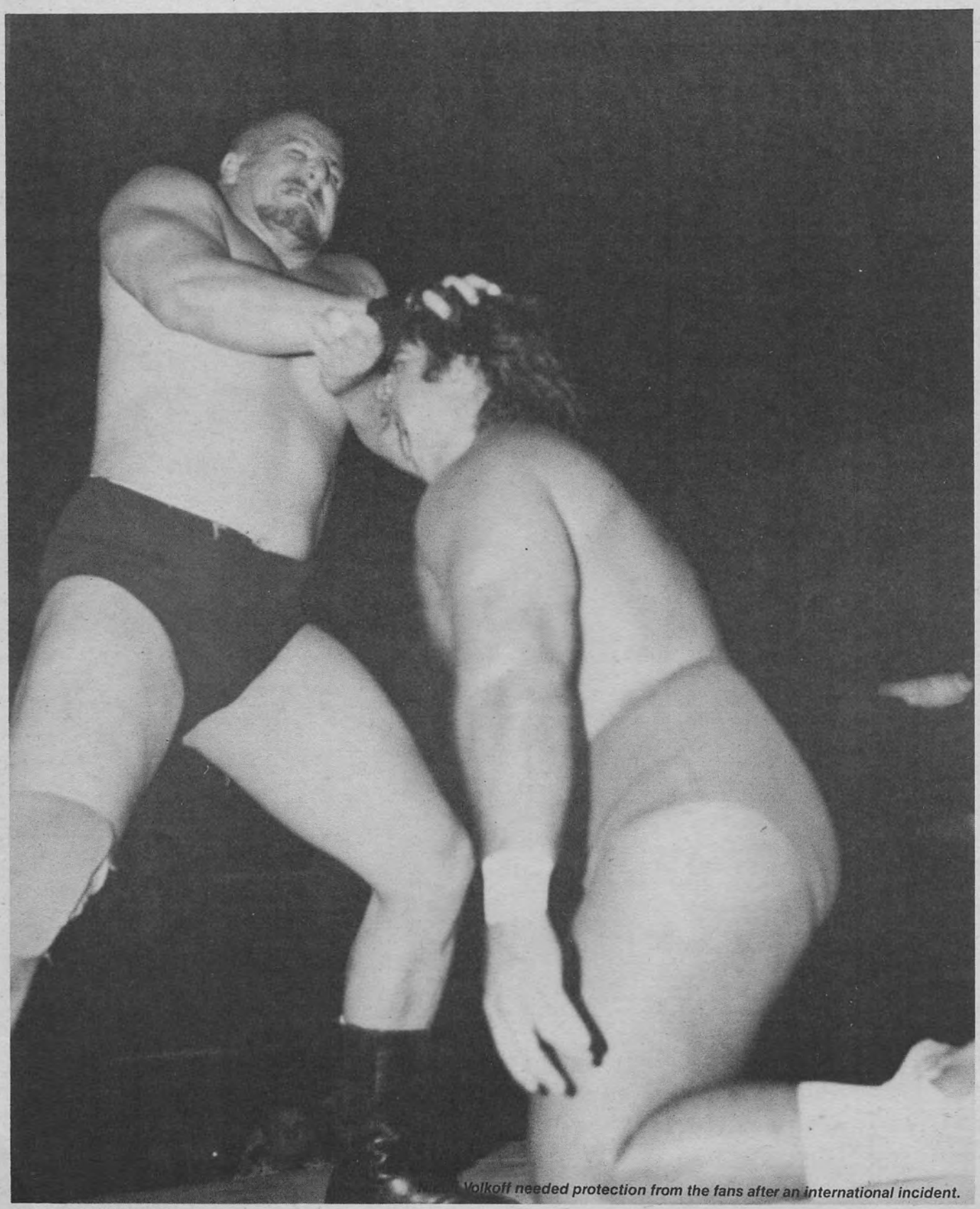
It was the first loss for Martel since his winning the AWA title on May 13, 1984 in St. Paul Minnesota. Before winning the championship, Stan Hansen was best known for crippling ex-WWF world champ Bruno Sammartino. Using his infamous 'Lariat', Stan put Bruno out for three months with a neck injury.

Hansen's rule will not be a popular one. Already he faces tough competition from Americas champ Sgt. Slaughter, It. heavyweight champ Buck Zum Hofe, ex-champs Nick Bockwinkle and 'Jumbo' Tsuruta. Stan is one of the biggest men ever to hold the AWA belt, and that fact should help him over the perils of being champ. For Rick, the road back might be difficult. It wasn't as if Hansen tricked him or caught him off guard. The new champ simply was the better man that cold evening.

Stan Hansen vs. Wahoo McDaniels

FAN VIOLENCE

Are You To Blame?



Volkoff needed protection from the fans after an international incident.

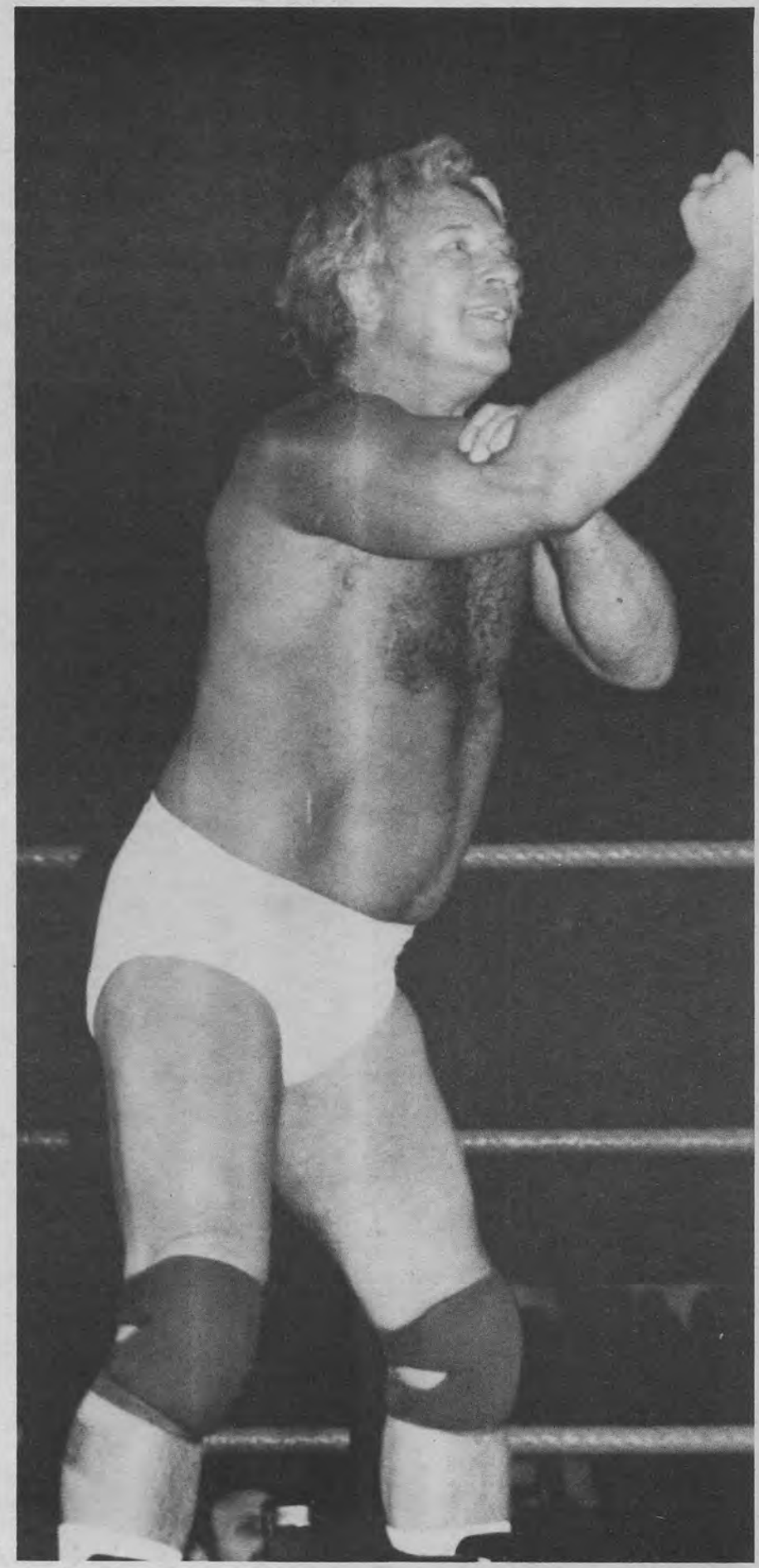
by Mike Bellew

All evidence suggests that spectator violence is increasing. Statistics show a sharp climb in violence at and following hockey, football, baseball, soccer and wrestling events. Another report (issued by the University of California) suggests the nationwide murder rate climbs 13% for three days after a championship boxing match. In 1984, the fans in Detroit caused more than $100,000 in damages following the World Series.

In pro wrestling, it's no different. Assaults and mob actions have increased. Usually experts blame the fans, they insist the fans must control themselves. Ridiculous! When a promoter or athletic commission allows Jerry Lawler, the Sheik, or Tully Blanchard to throw fire-balls, then they're looking for trouble. When the same officials permit wrestlers to swear or spit at the paying customers, then a riot is exactly what they deserve. It's easy to say the fans should behave, but in a sport where wrestlers are allowed to do anything they want, why aren't the fans? After all, the fans are one-up on the wrestlers, they paid for their seats.

No one is saying the fans have a right to attack or hurt a wrestler. However, when the fans do resort to violence it's usually for an understandable reason. For example, at the Kiel Arena, St. Louis, MO., a mob of black fans had to be stopped from attacking Roddy Piper. The loud-mouth wrestler had egged on the fans with racial slurs. Two years ago, extra security was needed to protect Nicoli Volkoff. This, after the Russian downing of a Korean passenger plane. Volkoff has repeatedly sung the praises of 'Mother Russia'.

Verbal abuse is only one way of getting the fans upset. Last October, when Ole Anderson and Ric Flair double-teamed Dusty Rhodes, the crowd stirred to action. One young man even leaped on Anderson's back. Police ordered the promoter-in-charge to call in his grapplers. Back in his villainous days, Paul Orndorff was beaten and kicked to the ground by fans in Scranton, PA. When he finally got back on his feet, 'Mr. Wonderful' struck out blindly—



Nick Bockwinkle

hitting an 81-year-old bystander. This event resulted in no action by the State Athletic Commission. Yet, the same commission later suspended Orndorff and 'Ace' Orton for unprofessional conduct in Pittsburgh's Civic Arena. Seems like Orndorff and Orton were throwing chairs and a 14-foot plank, when the plank nearly struck a commission official. Immediately, the wrestlers were disqualified and suspended. Apparently wrestlers can strike fans, but not officials.

Kamila and the Iron Sheik are two other wrestlers involved in court cases in which they are charged with striking ticket-buyers.

The increase in fan violence has other reasons behind it. The personality of the wrestling audience has changed dramatically. In the good old days, fans responded traditionally—they cheered the good guys and booed the villains. Today, fans enjoy both styles. The 'Road Warriors', although billed as bad guys, are cheered wherever they wrestle. Villain Jesse Ventura also has a strong following. "I have a big cult crowd," says Ventura. "Some people get smart enough to see through the goodie two-shoes wrestlers. The fans get action with me."

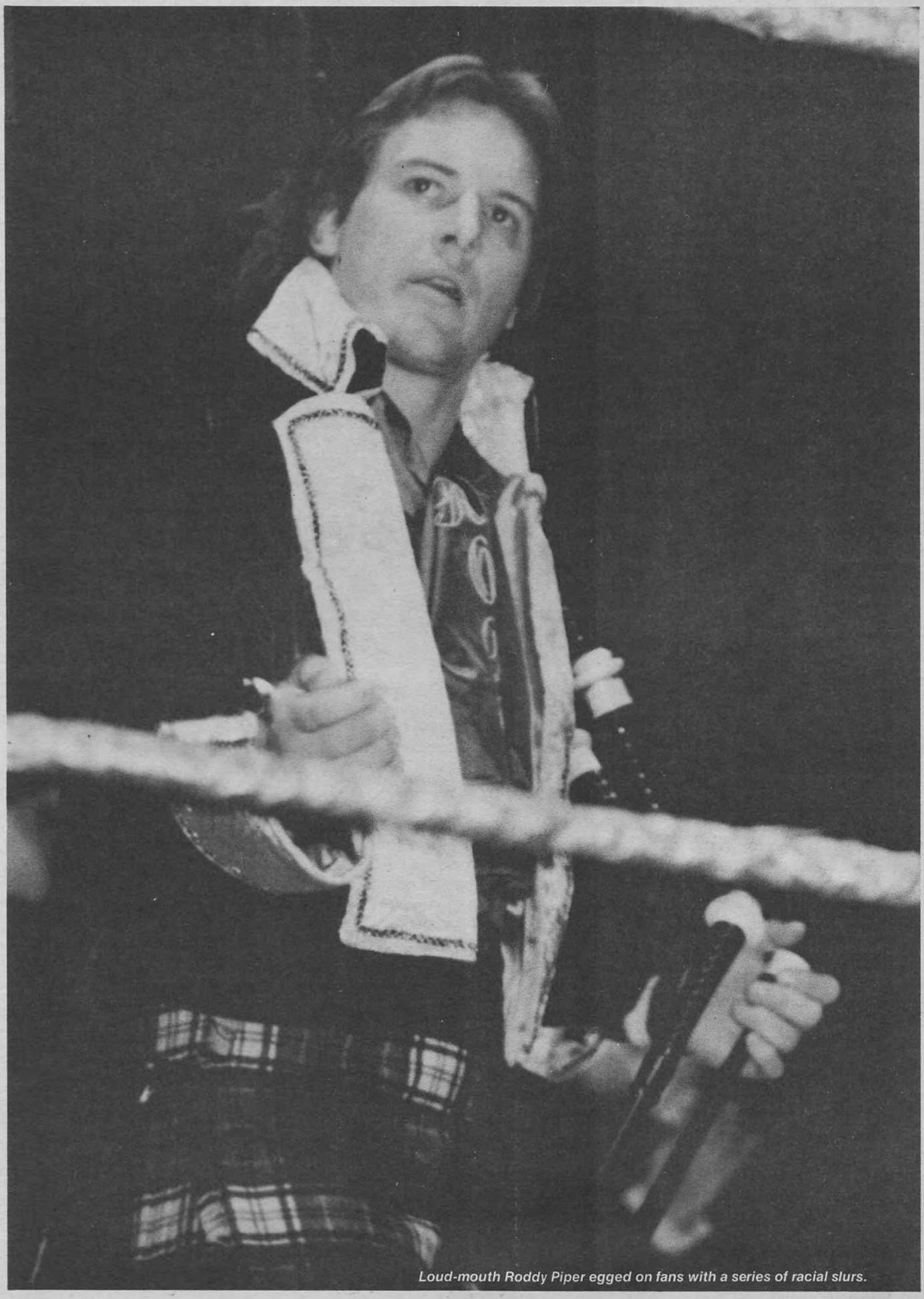
So now, we have fans who aren't sure of their role at a wrestling match. They don't know which wrestler to like, and they sure aren't paying to be spat, cursed or hit upon. These mixed emotions, coupled with the uncontrolled brawling in the ring, sets up a time bomb atmosphere. It's only to the fans' credit, that there aren't more riots or injuries.

Wrestlers play on the emotions of the fans. Sgt. Slaughter waves the American flag, while Nicoli Volkoff curses it. Once in awhile, it can get out of hand. Calling someone an ethnic vulgarity or tossing a chair at them is wrong. It goes past any limit of hype, and becomes dangerous. In the future, promoters might try to improve attendance with better wrestling. Wouldn't the British Bulldogs sell out an arena as quickly as Piper's foul mouth? For more than 40 years, Lou Thesz has been thrilling us with scientific ability over slapstick. Promoters should change, but in the end it's up to the fans. If you buy tickets to attend matches where a dirty-mouth is wrestling, then you're encouraging his acts. Even if you're going just to watch him get beat, it's still money in his pocket.

HOW DO YOU FEEL? Are the wrestlers and promoters to blame when things get out of control? What should a fan do when he wants to express him or herself? We ask you, the real wrestling fans, to tell us how you feel. Is fan violence to be expected? Write in and please tell us your views.

Posters and signs are one way to express your displeasure with a wrestler.

Ex-WWF champ, Bob Backlund, always had time for ticket buyers.



Loud-mouth Roddy Piper egged on fans with a series of racial slurs.

LARRY ZBYSZKO

One-On-One

by Mat Christensen

Larry Zbyszko in action.

Vicious and treacherous are just a few of the many adjectives used to describe Larry Zbyszko. During his turbulent twelve year career, the self-proclaimed "New Living Legend" of wrestling has managed to raise the wrath of fans everywhere. They may come bigger and stronger, but none more controversial. Wrestling Eye recently had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Zbyszko in Anchorage, Alaska only hours before his scheduled against Scott Hall. Zbyszko openly discussed his career, and revealed much untold information on his imfamous breakup with Bruno Sammartino. Wrestling Eye would like to thank Alaskan promoter Tor Berg for his kind treatment, and Larry Zbyszko for his time.

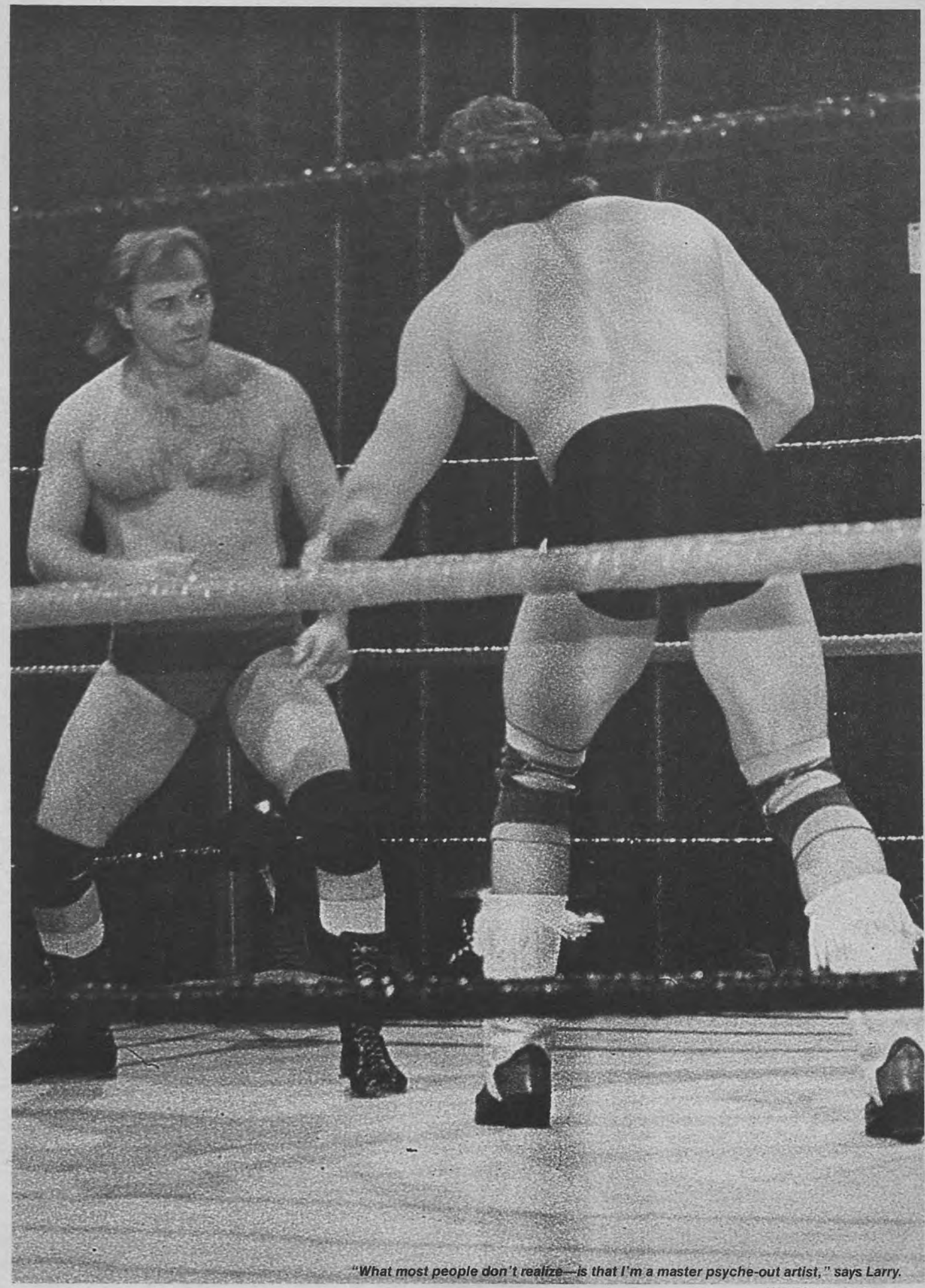
W.E. Larry, a top professional wrestler like yourself is in demand by promoters throughout the world. This obviously means a lot of travel on your part. Do you find this aspect of your career enjoyable, or does it get to be a grind?

ZBYSZKO: Maybe to your average person it would be a grind, as it's not the usual life style: but the travel doesn't bother me in the least. This is my twelfth year in the sport and, in contrast to what the business used to be like, it's much easier now. Where I would drive two or three hundred miles a day by car ten years ago, now I go to an airport, read a paper, sit in the plane and be served food and cocktails and have the chance to relax or sleep. In two or three hours, the time it used to take me to drive to a smaller city, I'm in Los Angeles hitting major markets at full force. Actually, at this point in my career, the money's more and the wrestling's less. So even though the travel takes me away from home six months out of the year, I'm enjoying my heyday—being a star.

W.E. Larry, the vast majority of the fans and wrestling press describe your style as ruthless, savage, and overall very sadistic. Wrestling Eye Magazine lists you as one of the sport's ten meanest competitors. You're definitely labeled a "rule-breaker." How do you react to this?

ZBYSZKO: Well, I tell you how I react to it! (angry) I started off in this wrestling business twelve years ago with a gung ho attitude that was naive at the time. I decided to follow in the footsteps of Bruno Sammartino, trying to mold myself after an individual I looked up to before I realized that he wasn't the person I thought he was. I also realized that the business was not like I thought it was. I thought it was men out there, competing, trying to win. But there's more to winning in professional wrestling; it's making the big dollars. It's a profession just like football, baseball or boxing. There are the elite professionals like myself, who make enormous amounts of money, and then there is the rest who really don't make any money at all. This keeps the competition at the finest competitive level possible because everybody wants the big money and second prize isn't really good enough, it isn't satisfying enough. So if people don't like my style, I really don't care. I've learned after twelve years that the fans are not your friends. The fans want to see you get hurt, and they don't care if it's me, or Sgt. Slaughter, or Greg Gagne, or anybody. Even if they clap for you or boo you, the only reality in life is taking care of number one. If this means I have to take advantage of the rules, so be it! My high school wrestling coach used to always tell us: rules are not for breaking, they are taking advantage of. I had to learn all this the hard way after being back-stabbed by Sammartino and his little clique of friends. Professional wrestling is a vicious business. It's a profession involving big money, and only the strong and intelligent survive. It doesn't matter how you get there, the only thing people care about is if you make it.

W.E. Larry, early in your career you wrestled strictly by the book. Do you feel the more aggressive tac-

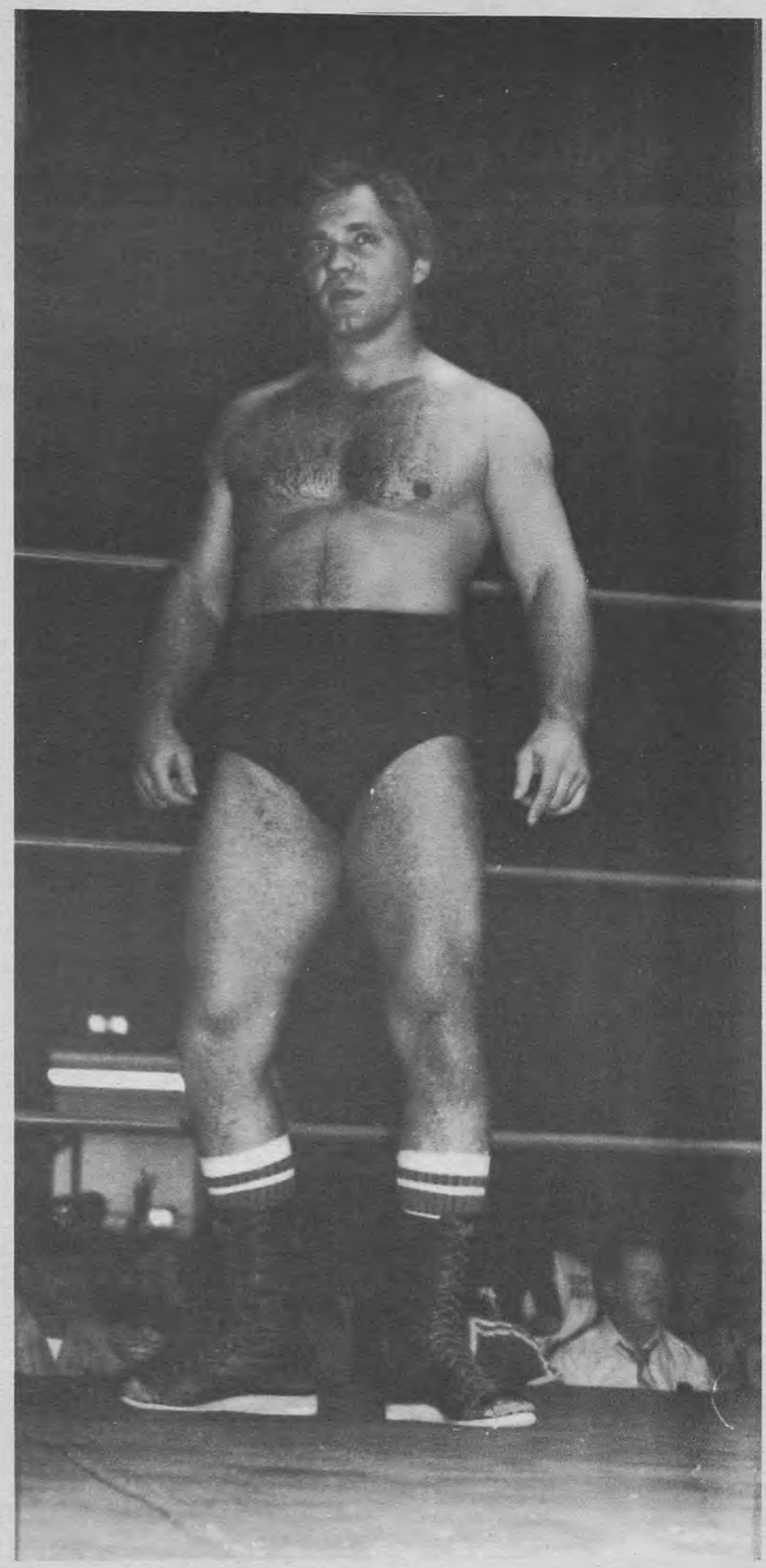


"What most people don't realize—is that I'm a master psyche-out artist," says Larry.

tics you've implemented in your style over the years have helped your success in the ring?
ZBYSZKO: Oh yea, certainly. I've went from making fifty to sixty grand a year when I was trying to be Mr. Nice Guy, to over two hundred thousand dollars a year by taking advantage of the rules, and really not succumbing to the peer group pressure of being involved with the popularity regarding fans. They are a complete waste of time.
W.E. Compare the Larry Zbyszko of today to the one ten years ago. What's the main difference?
ZBYSZKO: Well, the Larry Zbyszko of today is older, wiser, more mature, a more complete individual and professional wrestler. I wish I knew twelve years ago what I know now, but as everybody goes through life we realize that we only learn by doing it.
W.E. What is Larry Zbyszko's greatest asset?
ZBYSZKO: Intellect.
W.E. Speaking of intellect, not many fans are aware that you attended Penn State University and graduated with degrees in law enforcement and psychology. You also dropped out of wrestling a few years back and claimed to have been studying psychology. My question is, does your extensive knowledge of the human mind, and the way it works, help you when you're in the ring?
ZBYSZKO: Oh certainly. If you notice my style in the ring you're probably aware that I take advantage of the rules. However, what most people don't realize is that I'm a master psyche-out artist. For instance, when the bell rings most wrestlers will immediately tie up—but not me. I think that's one big mistake. I think it's worth taking the three or four minutes at the beginning to feel out your opponent and throw vibrations his way so he doesn't know what you're doing. He doesn't know where you're coming from. He doesn't know if you're trying to psyche him out or what. Sure the fans are going to call me a chicken when I'm dancing around the ring and stepping out of the ropes, but who gives a dam! I feel it's important to spend a few minutes at the beginning to establish the psychological edge. As soon as you confuse your opponent's game plan, he's lost.
W.E. Larry, you've had an extremely successful career over the past decade and you've done so with very little, if any, fan support. As of today what are your feelings towards the fans?
ZBYSZKO: It's a double-edged sword: the fans. I have mixed emotions about them. I don't need the fans and most of the time the fans are a real pain. On the other hand, I look out at the world of wrestling fans and I say to myself; if only the people would let themselves be enlightened as to ability and not to prejudices. If only the people could say, well, the guy comes out and says what he feels, but he really doesn't give a damn about popular opinion. He has the guts to stand on his own two feet. I think the fans should expand their mental horizons and learn to recognize talent, and understand why people are the way they are. It's not that I don't appreciate them, but I really can't deal with their closed-minded mentalities.
W.E. We all know how the split with the fans started. You grew tired of the Bruno Sammartino protege label and one day, on a nationally-televised match, you took a steel chair and slammed it down across the man's head. Was that particular action spontaneous or pre-planned.

No, it was spontaneous. What it boils down to in a nutshell is this. I was tired of the protege image, an image I had to change to survive, and I wanted to do it in a manly way. I tried to talk to Bruno before and I got the runaround. It's a story that people really don't know about because it wasn't a televised type of thing, it was a personal thing. It was a situation where I was so good, and Bruno's son was just about to become a wrestler. It was at the point where breaking away from the protege image was necessary, but it was also at the point where Sammartino was backstabbing me because his son would never be my equal. I would always be much better. I guess the bottom line is, blood is thicker than water and Bruno went family rather than friends. When I wrestled him on television, hey, I'm no idiot. I had Bruno in a hold and I wrestled the best I could. Bruno had me in a hold and when I went to reverse the hold he would let go. You know, it's an old professional trick. After about ten minutes of wrestling it

Today, Larry Zbyszko is an older and wiser wrestler. Or so he says.



"I have mixed emotions about the fans," says Larry.

dawned on me that this man was purposely trying to embarrass me in front of millions, and in my disgust I saw red, andI just didn't give a damn. That match illustrated to me what kind of man Bruno Sammartino really was and still is.

W.E. Larry, you were still fairly young at the time. As you look back, were you mentally prepared to handle the huge negative response you received from the fans who had cheered and supported you for so long?

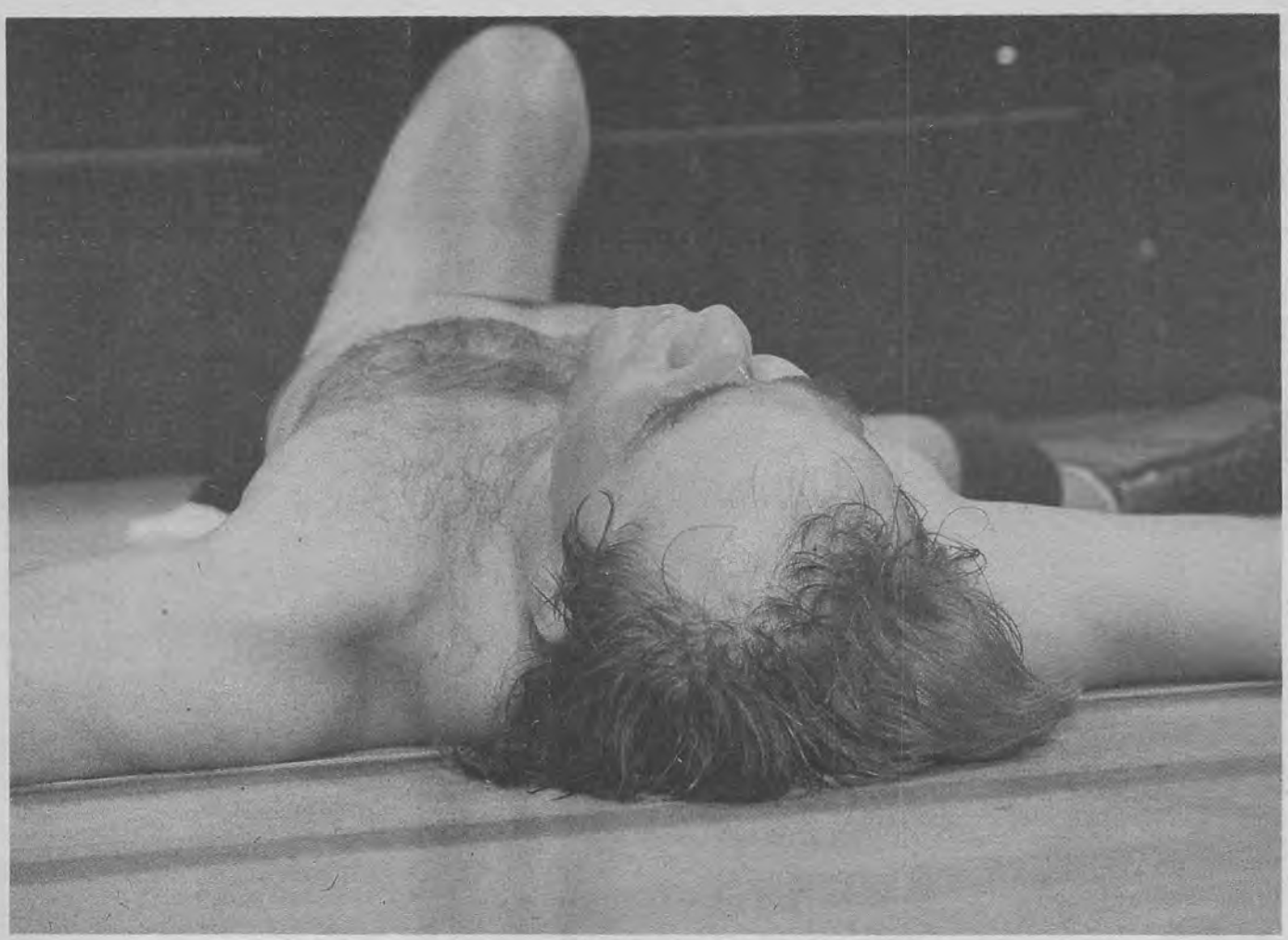
ZBYSZKO: No I didn't plan on it. I planned to go in there and have a scientific match. I was shocked at the outcome myself, and it took me quite some time to realize just how immense the fans' hatred for me was. The Sammartino incident was the turning point in my relationship with the fans. I grew up and they couldn't accept it. It's not that I have anything against them, I just cannot deal with close-minded mentalities. They all loved Bruno and Bruno could do no wrong, so Larry Zbyszko's a bad guy—period! I don't have the time or energy to worry about closed-minded people, it's their problem.

W.E. It's been over five years since the explosion first began. Is the hate and bitterness still there?

ZBYSZKO: Nah, I think time cures a lot of things. I don't think there's as much hate and as much bitterness between Sammartino and myself. I do know that Sammartino's son has a lot of bitterness against me; number one for what I did to his old man, and number two because I really did steal the spotlight from David or Bruno Jr.

W.E. Larry, as I'm sure you're aware, Bruno has come out of retirement and lately has been competing in tag matches with his son. What do you think about this?

ZBYSZKO: Not too much. Bruno was one of the toughest and strongest wrestlers ever, and I'm sure he's still in tremendous shape. However, the man has to be in his upper forties and past his prime. I do realize he's been tagging with his son because he wants to give his son the push, and get him in the spotlight which rightfully is mine. Bruno knows his kid doesn't have the intestinal fortitude to make it on his own. They're both bitter against me because I'm so much better than David, and everyone can see it!



"I don't need the fans and most of the time he fans are a real pain...

W.E. Is there a possibility we'll ever see Larry Zbyszko and Bruno Sammartino wage war in the squared circle again?

ZBYSZKO: I don't know. I don't know.

W.E. Would you like the opportunity to wrestle Bruno in the near future?

ZBYSZKO: Give me a break! Do you really think Sammartino wants any part of me? Besides, I already retired the guy once. I have nothing else to prove.

W.E. Let's talk a minute about your goals in the AWA. Are you interested in recapturing the Americas title you lost to Sgt. Slaughter, or would you rather gun for Martel's AWA World crown?

ZBYSZKO: To tell you the truth, I think it's a tossup. Slaughter's Americas belt is something I want very badly. I didn't like the way it was taken from me. It was a situation where both of us were flat on our backs, and the referee awarded the match to Slaughter. I never understood why and no one else could either. I had my attorneys try and fight it, but there really was nothing legal I could do. It's obvious that the AWA officials were biased. On the other side of the coin, Rick Martel's AWA World Championship is a very prestigious title as well. Maybe I'll come to the point where I put my pride behind me and forget Slaughter, so I can concentrate on winning the only title that really matters—the world championship.

W.E. If indeed you should capture the AWA world title, would you press for a unification bout with present NWA world champion Ric Flair?

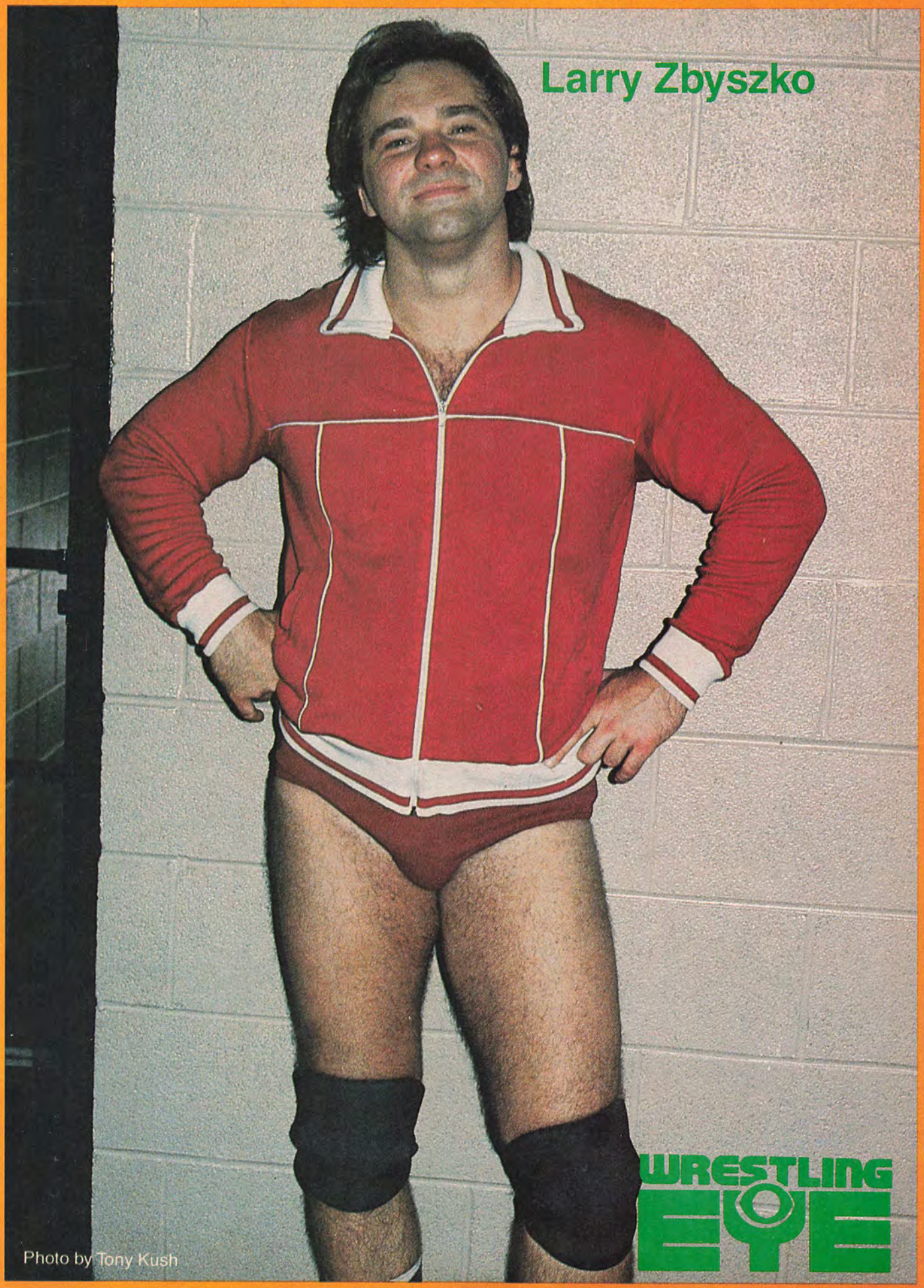
ZBYSZKO: Oh yea! I would love a match with Ric Flair even if I wasn't AWA champion. I think Flair is good, but I know I could beat him. That's why it's been so hard to arrange a match, and there hasn't been one yet. I'm sure Ric Flair fears and respects my abilities and I know for damn sure he doesn't want to wrestle me. It would take a lot of work on the promoter's part to sign this match because Flair realizes that there's no way in hell he can beat me!

W.E. In conclusion, what can we expect to see from Larry Zbyszko in 1986?

ZBYSZKO: You better get this down; it'll probably be the scoop of the year. In '86 you're going to see a far more aggressive Larry Zbyszko. The wrestling business is changing. The wrestlers are bigger and stronger than ever, and the wrestling aspect of the sport is being replaced by barbarism. You've got guys like the Road Warriors and Scott Hall who lack wrestling finesse but are just huge, tough monsters. My style is going to have to change a little to keep up with the times. I'm going to have to do a little more hurting and a little less wrestling in order to be successful. One hundred percent pure scientific wrestlers like myself are going to fade away because of fan pressure. The fans want to see brutality, and the promoters are giving them barbarians. Therefore Larry Zbyszko is gong to have to get a more little barbaric.

W.E. Thank you very much, Larry.

WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP



WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP

Photo by Tony Kush

WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP

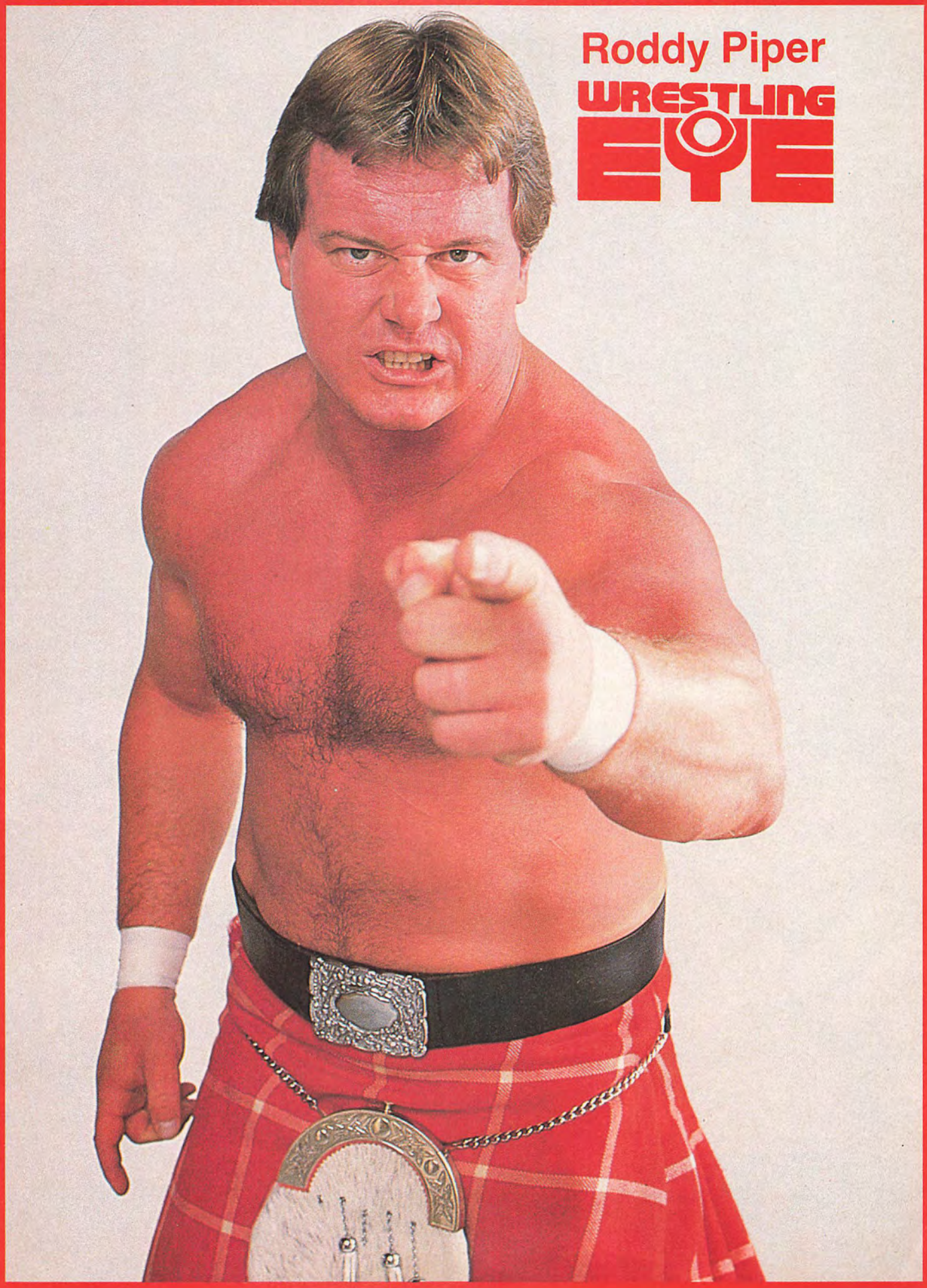
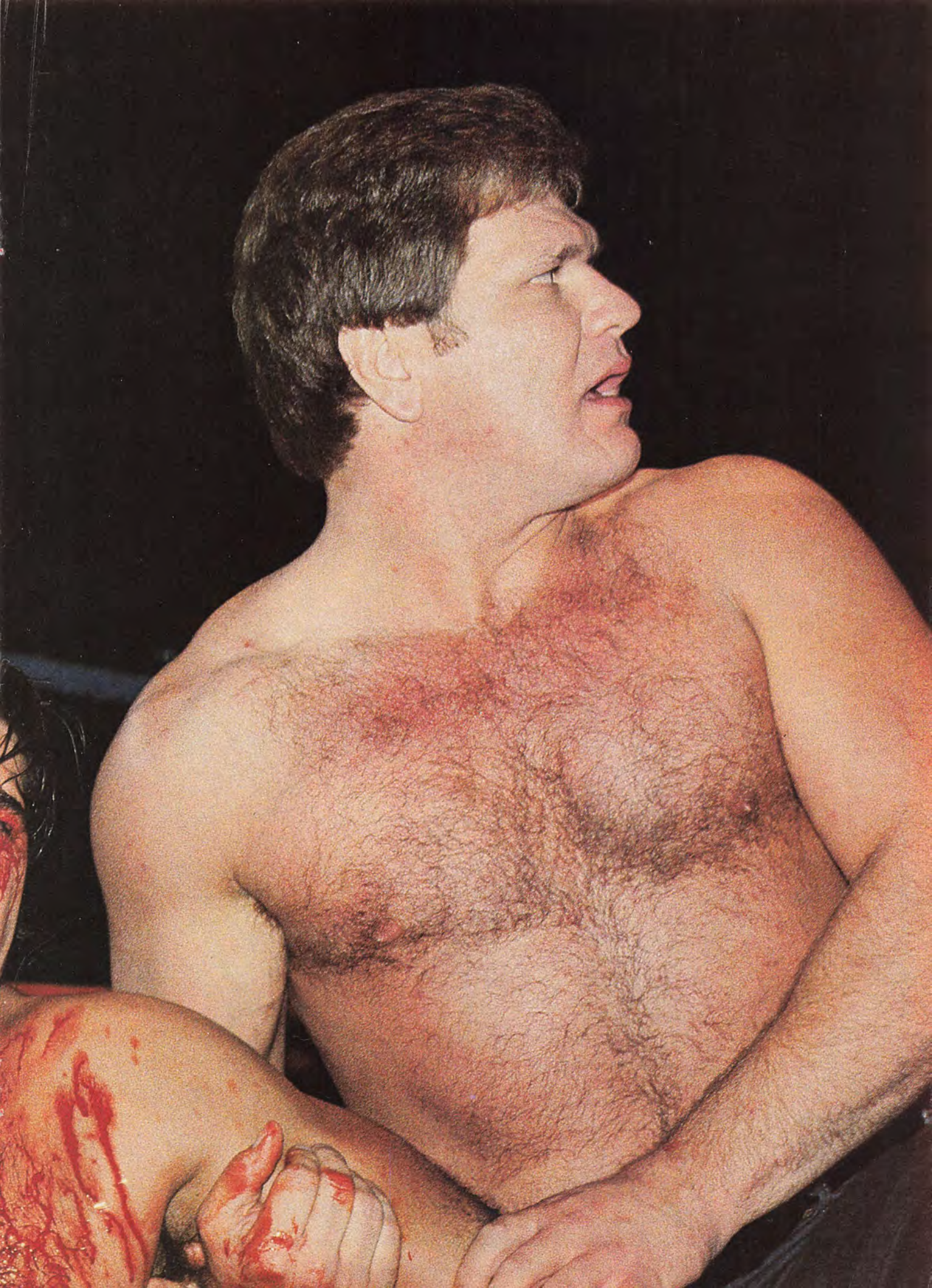


Photo by William Hart

WRESTLING EYE

Buck Zum Hofe, Rick Martel and Brad Rheingans



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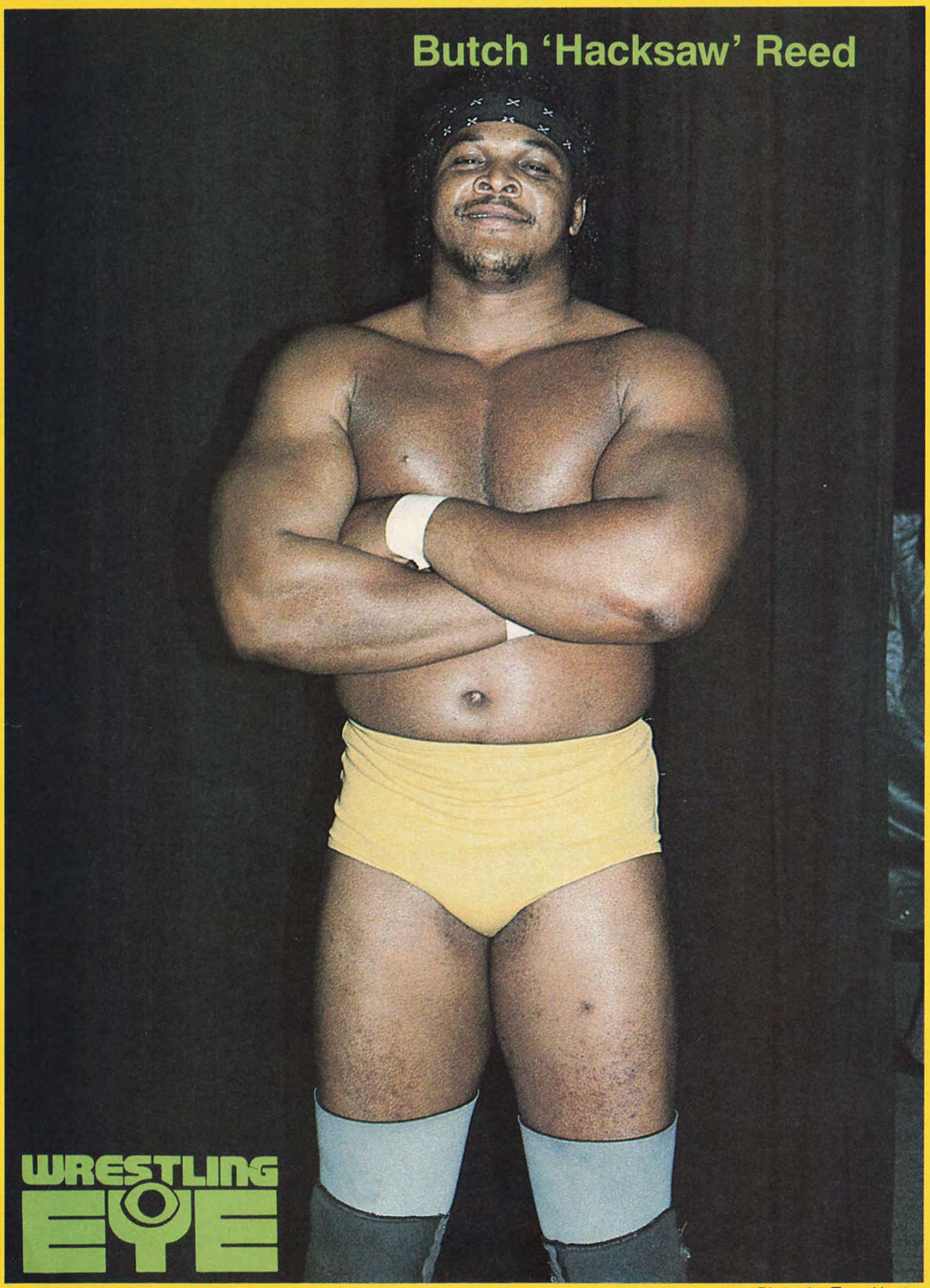


Photo by Tony Kush

WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP

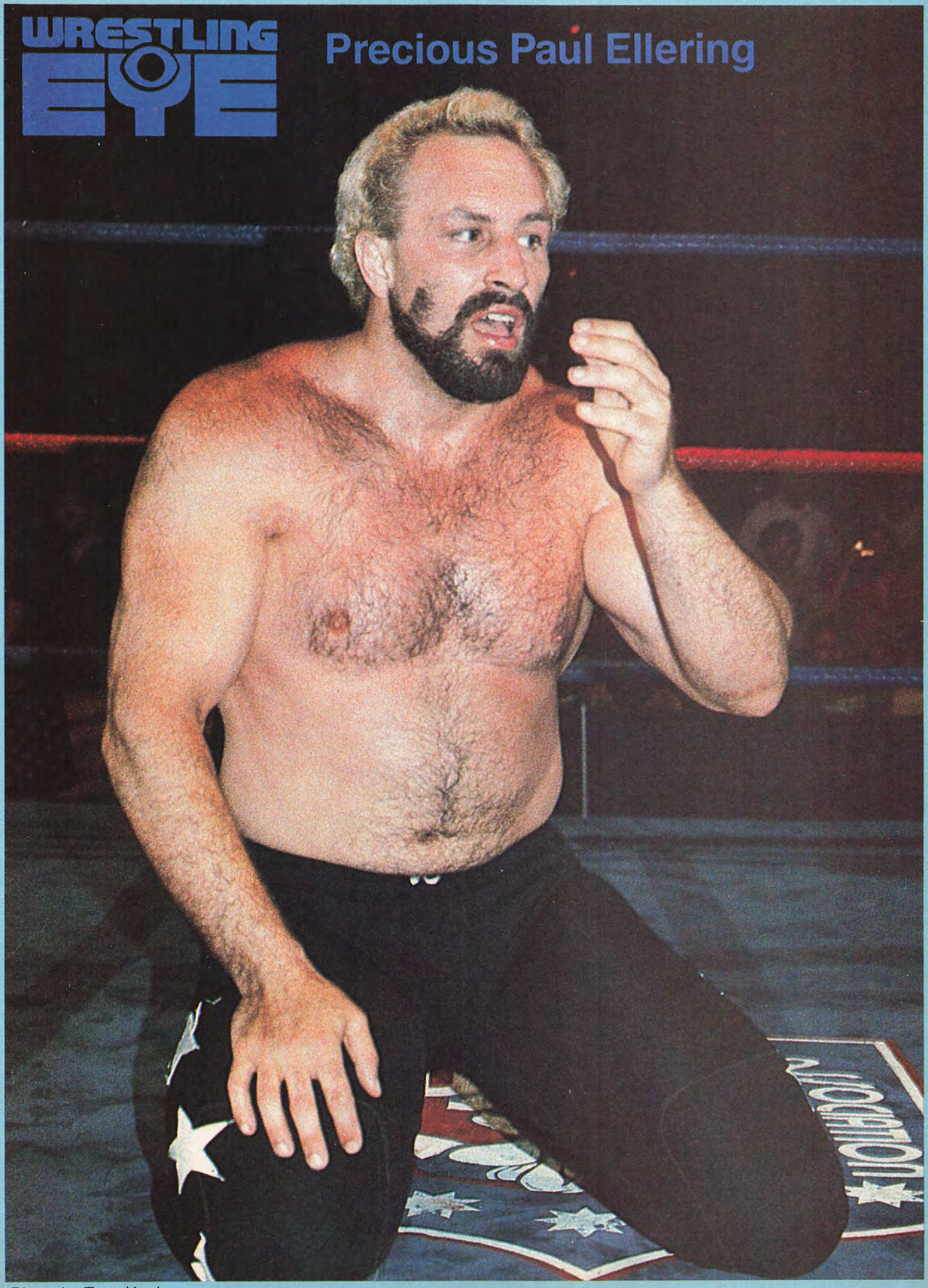


Photo by Tony Kush

WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP

RIC FLAIR VS. MIL MASCARAS

The Match We Demand!

Roberts is at Mil's mercy as a standing surf-board is applied.

Photo & Story by Tony Kush

That's right, NWA champion Ric Flair one-on-one with the Mexican legend Mil Mascaras. Not a series of rematches, just one, single, absolute and to-the-finish match. Would Flair's durable 245-pound, 5-11 frame withstand the nonstop assault of the 5-11, muscular 229-pound Mascaras?

Flair, at 35, is five-to-seven years younger than the Mysterious Masked Man. But, Flair has always had problems with the older, more experienced grapplers like Wahoo McDaniel and Harley Race. Mascaras and Flair have been wrestling professionally for about 12 years. Both are international stars. Mil's biggest advantage is his unmatched knowledge of wrestling. He isn't called 'The Man of A Thousand Holds' for nothing, you know.

Mascaras was born and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico. He wrestled in Mexico, and after two years, he left for the United States. In Los Angeles, he became a hometown hero to the loyal Mexican-American fans at the Olympic Auditorium. Opponents soon learned to respect Mil for his agility and strength. Body presses, drop kicks and other high flying tactics became his forte. Add to this, a powerful body and the knowledge of 'one thousand holds', and he was virtually unbeatable.

In the Mid-Seventies, Mil won the IWA world's heavyweight title. A smaller promotional group based in Jersey City, NJ, the association gained credibility with a champ like Mascaras. An enormously talented wrestler, he defended his world belt against Ivan Koloff, the Love Brothers and Ernie Ladd, before the IWA disbanded. With his movie career in full swing (Mil has made over 200 films in his native country), Mascaras never bothered seeking a second world belt. He did wrestle for Billy Graham's WWF title, but he preferred simply globe-trotting. His ring name is Spanish for 'million masks', and he claims to have never worn the same mask twice. "One of the reasons I wear the mask is because I have starred in several movies in Mexico, and I'm fairly famous as an actor. I always wear a mask in the films, so when I don't wear one people don't bother me."

Flair maintains Mascaras doesn't even deserve a title shot.

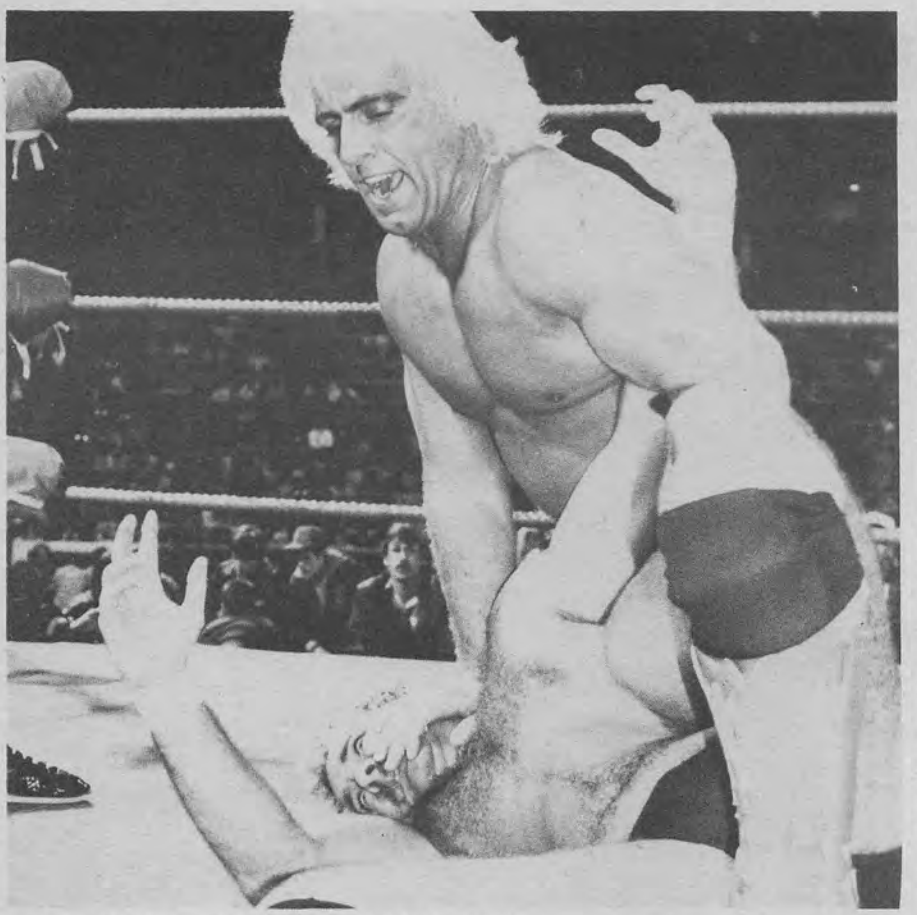
Mascaras also says he has never wrestled without a mask.

'The Man of A Million Masks' has wrestled Flair before. He says the bouts were inconclusive. Earlier in both their careers, Mil and Ric wrestled to a one-hour draw in South Carolina. "Flair is fast and cunning, but he can be beaten. I don't think he's as good as a champ should be."

Ric Flair's response was predictable. "As good as I should be? What does that Bean know about being champ? I've held the NWA belt longer than anyone. There ain't a dude that can beat me. Mascaras is an old man, and no way will he ever step into the ring with the King." Flair's history is well known to every sincere wrestling fan. Born on Feb. 25, 1951 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Flair was a star football player and wrestling champion.

He won the NWA crown for the first time on Sept. 17, 1981 from Dusty Rhodes. Two years later, Harley Race lifted the belt from him. In the first 'Starcade,' Nov. 24, 1983, Flair regained the world belt from Race in a bloody steel cage bout. Touring Australia and New Zealand, Flair dropped the belt again to his old enemy Harley Race on March 19, 1984. A day later he regained the title and did not lose it again until May 6 to Kerry Von Erich. In Japan 18 days later, Flair caught up with Kerry and recaptured the belt. He has since held the title—getting by via whatever means.

Flair fluctuates between a scientific great and a sadistic, treacherous villain. He will use anyone to achieve his purposes. Dusty Rhodes recently found out what happens when you try to help Ric out. The NWA champ was being double-teamed by the Koloff's; Rhodes went to his aid and in turn Flair attacked Rhodes. "I didn't ask for help," denounced Ric.



Flair puts his power to good use with an armlock.

the former IWA champ expresses an interest in meeting Flair for the NWA belt.

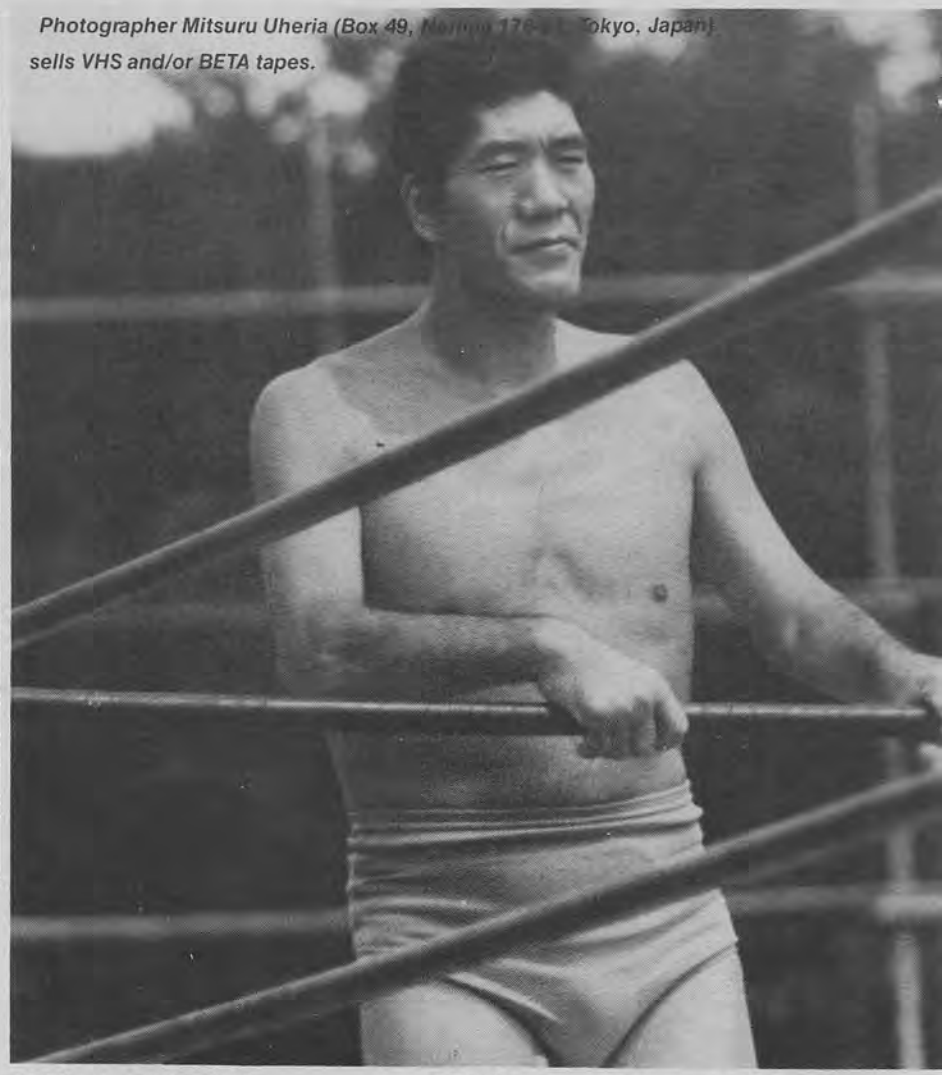
"Fatso was out to show me up. He got what he deserved." Their match at last year's Starcade was a bloody mess, only equal in mayhem to their 'Lord of the Rings' bout in 1984.

Ric doesn't look the 'body-beautiful' type, but he is certainly a strong and powerful ringmaster. Using judo-chops, Ric softens up a challenger for his famous Figure 4-Leglock. However, with more and more wrestlers learning how to counter the leglock, Ric has switched to the Sleeper and Reverse-Cradle to win. Either way, a challenger better be at his best when he wrestles Flair.

We'd like to see a Flair-Mascaras title match because we believe Mil is the only wrestler who can test the great champ. The challenger is the only wrestler who combines mature ring experience with championship physical abilities. In the past, Flair has been on the brink of defeat with older contenders. Only their poor conditioning has saved his belt. Mascaras would not slow down or tire as the match progresses. Just the opposite is true; as a battle wages on, Mil usually gets strong like a weight lifter increasing the poundage on each lift. Flair has beaten Magnum T.A., Ricky Steamboat and Billy Haynes because they lack the ring know-how that only comes from years of experience. All this is why Mil Mascaras is Ric Flair's only true contender.

Instead of any more rematches with men who he has already beaten, we challenge Ric Flair to put his belt on the line against Mil Mascaras. Mr. Flair, we await your reply!

FAN CLUB COLUMN By Ed Garea



Photographer Mitsuru Uheria (Box 49, Nerima 176, Tokyo, Japan) sells VHS and/or BETA tapes.

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By Ed Garea

At the start of this month's column I would like to warn fans of what is being offered here. These bulletins are not professionally-printed magazines, and none are in color. The quality of fanzines can vary greatly—some are copied mimiographed or printed on poor paper. There is no set length to any of these newsletters—many are only a few pages long and cluttered with facts and fiction. Produced by fans, these bulletins are not guaranteed to be at all accurate. Many have information based only on rumor or dated material. The FAN COLUMN will take no responsibility for the merit of any bulletins mentioned here.

Originally, this column was meant for fans interested in wrestling and not get-rich-schemes. I would like to see more fans write in who want to exchange ideas with other fans. Use the FAN CLUB COLUMN to form fan clubs around certain areas or wrestlers.

Photographer Dyane Kirkland is offering photos of NWA Atlanta stars and a few WWF stars at very low rates. 3½ × 5 black & white photos are available at $1.25 each or 5 for $5.25. Most shots will be 5 × 7 for $3.50 each (prices include postage and packaging). Dyane keeps lists for his buyers, so if he gets new shots of someone they like, he automatically updates them. Readers should send a S.A.S.E. for a current list. Write to Dyane at Kirkland Photographics, Box 731, Forest Park, GA 30050.

One of the best bulletins in wrestling is MAT RESULTS—Bob Closson, 2115 Clifton Ave., Springfield, OH 45505. Single issue—$2.25; Three issues—$6.00; Six issues—$11.75. EASTERN WRESTLING NEWS—Steve Helwagen, 605 Edgewood Drive, Circleville, OH 43113. Single issue, $1.00 plus first-class stamp. This is another decent newsletter.

The BUCK ZUM HOFE FAN CLUB is run by S.J. Williamson, 1515 S. Clermont Street, Denver, CO 80222. S.J. is also an outstanding photographer. Her stories and pictures have appeared in WRESTLING EYE. Barbi Barker, 114 Derby Avenue, Seymour, CT 06483 has formed a fan club for Zoltan the Great. For $8.00 annual dues, you receive four bulletins, a membership card and an 8 × 10 autographed photo. Why aren't more fans organizing fan clubs for their heroes? Wrestlers love attention, just like everyone else. Perhaps it's a case of laziness on the

part of the fans to get things rolling along. The very-popular Ric Flair fan club was recently abandoned and now would be a good time to get Ric's permission to start a new club. Roddy Piper is another wrestler who once had a fan club, but doesn't now. Sgt. Slaughter? Wendi Richter? Paul Orndorff? None of these stars have clubs.

For the WWF stars, you could try writing to Titan Sports, 81 Hollyhill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830. Ask their permission to start a club. If that doesn't work, why not write the FAN CLUB COLUMN for a pen pal. State your name, age, address, and who your favorite wrestler is. There are plenty of other fans out there who share the same interest. Many long-standing friendships have been formed through this kind of correspondence.

Mat action in New York State is covered by the Buffalo Backdrop.

Send $2.00 to Jim Schmidt, 149 Redwood Terrace, Williamsville, NY 14221 for a sample issue. RINGS AROUND THE WORLD, 1220 E. 63 Street, Tacoma, WA 984404 features wrestling on the West Coast and is available from Ken Hamblin. WRESTLING CHRONICLE is a newsletter from Steve Luther, Box 262, Coventry, CT 06238.

Any material for review, or other correspondence, can be sent to me at the following address: FAN CLUB COLUMN, c/o WRESTLING EYE, Box 863, North Bergen, NJ 07047.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Wrestling Wire Ed. by Barbi Barker. One issue—$1.50; Three for $4.25; Five for $7.00

A bulletin that has been around for awhile; not hard to understand why. Mainly results-oriented with a page of news and letters from readers. Excellent quality of print, good writing, and easy to follow format make this bulletin an easy winner and well worth your money. Recommended.

Bad Guys Galore Ed. by Jerry Wiseman. Price: Your guess is as good as mine; no prices listed. Hey, maybe it's free! Write the editor for details.

A decent bulletin celebrating the heels of wrestling. Good coverage, but a large mar on this effort is the constant interplay between the Editor and his friends in the pages of this bulletin. If they would stop interviewing each other and pay more attention to their sport, this would be a bulletin with few peers. Quality of print is excellent. Writing is fair, due to number of obscenities used. Recommended with reservations.

With extra leverage from T.A.'s trunks, Flair pins his challenger in a rolling cradle.

Addresses To Write;

Wrestling Wire—2019 Third Ave., New Brighton, PA 15066

Bad Guys Galore—520 N. Euclid, Indianapolis, IN 46201

General Interest:

Global Wrestling—Tom Burke, Ed. 31 Groveland St., Springfield, MA 01108. One issue: $1.50 + SASE; Four months for $7.00; One year for $21.00.

Wrestling Observer Newsletter—Deave Meltzer, Ed. 111 Clifford #7, Turlock, CA 95380-4663. $5.00 for four issues.

Specialized Interest:

California Wrestling—Mark Vellios, Ed. 33 Moccasin Lane, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274. $1.50 per issue.

FOR SALE OR TRADE:

Mark Gallo, 2506 S. 59th Ave. Cicero, IL 60650, has a catalog of wrestling collectibles that comes out quarterly. To receive the Winter-86 issue, send $2.00 to cover postage and handling. The Winter issue is a double issue and will include a free collectible. Also, the 100th recipient of the Winter-86 catalog will receive $25.00 in free collectibles.

Patricia Banks, 396 4th St., N.W., Barberton, OH 44203, has photos of Crockett promotion stars for sale. All photos are in color: 3 × 5—$.75, 5 × 7—$3.00, 8 × 10—$5.50. Stars included are Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, Black Bart, Tommy Rich, Terry Taylor, American Starship Eagle (Dan Spivey) and Sam Houston, among others. I highly recommend the quality of these photos.

RICK 'QUICK DRAW' McGRAW

by Joshua Adams

The death of Rick McGraw touches each of us in a special way. He was a modern day 'David' sling-shooting a hundred Goliaths. 'Quick Draw' was the common man against uncommon and overwhelming odds. Most of all, Rick was every mother's son, every sister's big brother and someone we respected.

On the first day of November 1985, Rick was found dead in his apartment in New Haven, Conn. The 236-pound native of Charlotte, N.C. was only 30 years old. His body was discovered by a neighbor, who had been asked to check the apartment by McGraw's wife, Lisa. The unnamed neighbor kicked in the door, found McGraw, and summoned the police.

The official cause of death is yet undetermined. Reports of McGraw having been murdered are untrue, and early signs point to a fatal heart attack. New Haven's medical examiner has so far established that there was toxicological evidence in Rick's system of heart disease. According to the coroner, the toxicosis discovered in Rick McGraw's body is common in people with a propensity towards having heart disease. McGraw's condition, which apparently led to his death, is comparable to that of runners, football players, and other athletes, who appear healthy but who actually have a latent heart defect.

This physical aberration is ruthless, and little is known about what triggers it.

The medical examiner will make a further study before announcing an 'official' cause of death. The way most of us will remember Rick McGraw is as a fierce wrestler with a warm smile. His untimely death is even more tragic, in that he had the good looks of a teenager.

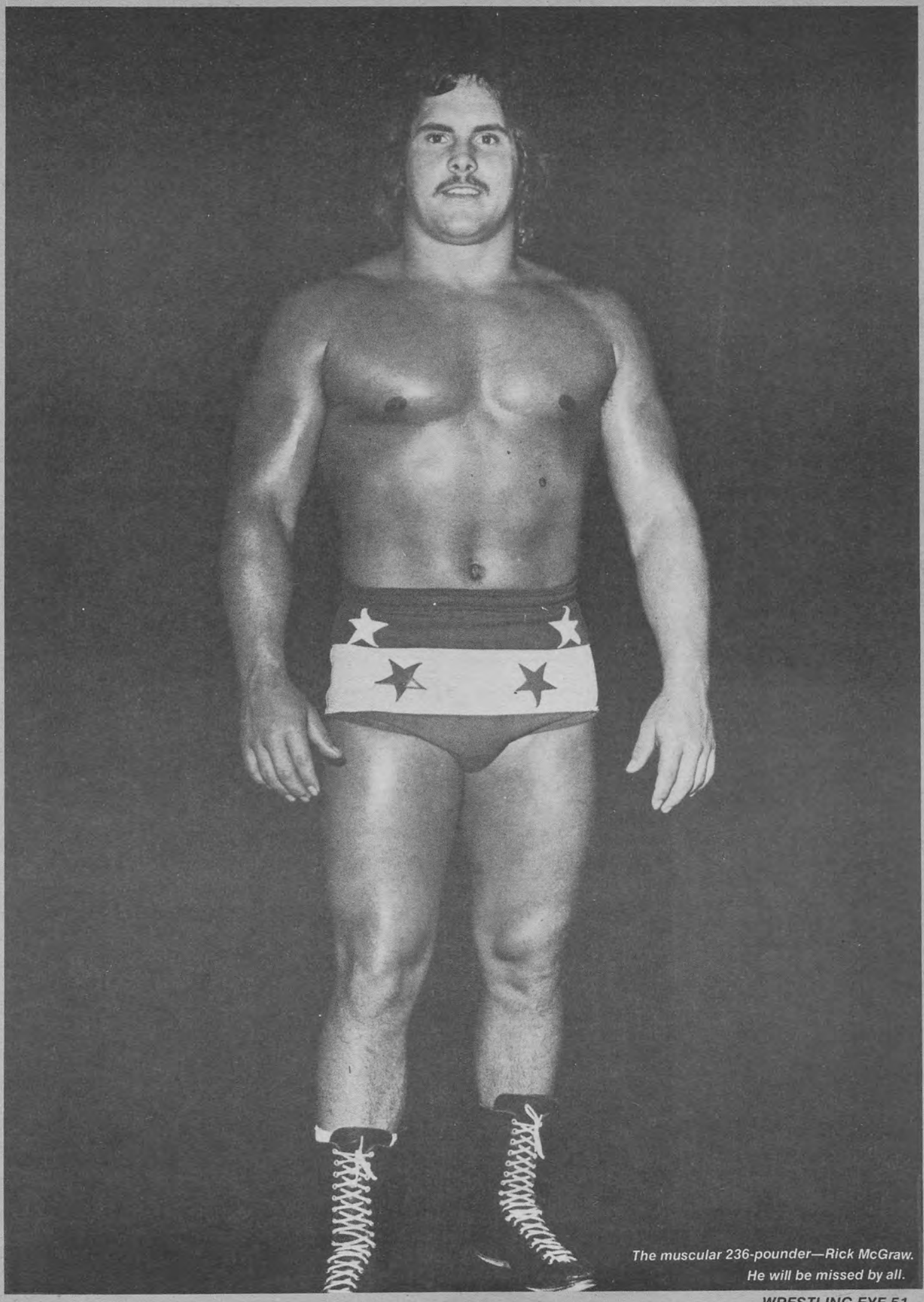
Rick McGraw and Danny Miller carry a bloodied Johnny Weaver to safety.

Somehow life on the road hadn't worn him down the way it had so many others. Born Richard Emitt McGraw Jr. on March 19, 1955, Rick had been wrestling professionally for 10 years.

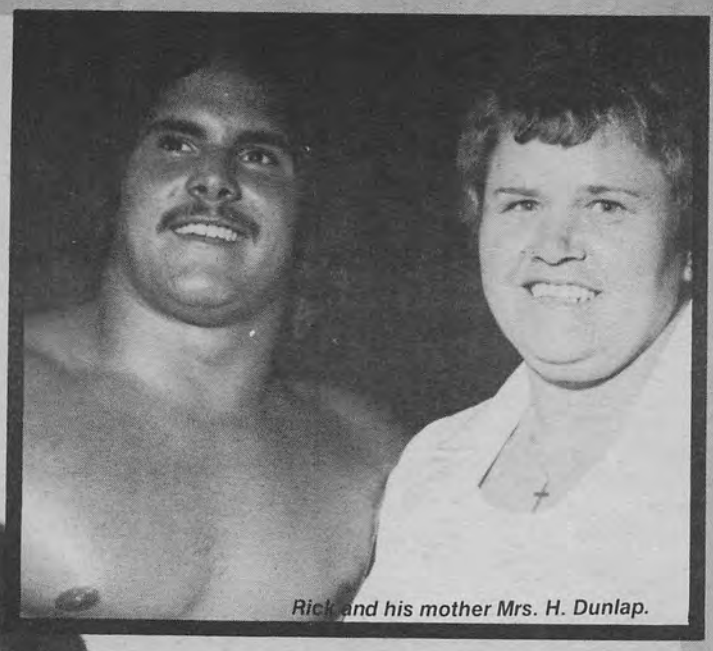
His stepfather, Herbert Dunlap, told reporters that Rick had been a state champion wrestler in the 185-pound division. He had also coached wrestling at West Mecklenburg High School. In his pro career he met all challengers, regardless of their size. To make for what he lacked in height and weight, Rick emphasized his speed and ability. His last professional match was against Iron Mike Sharpe at the Meadowlands Arena, in New Jersey, on October 28th. Television viewers recall Ricky's final TV bout against Rowdy Roddy Piper, which was precipitated when McGraw was a guest on 'Piper's Pit'.

In true fighting spirit, McGraw challenged Piper to a television match after Roddy had called Ricky second-rate. Earlier in 1985, while touring his homestate, McGraw had beaten NWA champ Ric Flair in a non-title bout, also on TV. Against Piper, luck was not with McGraw. Roddy hurt his smaller opponent early with a series of illegal chops and kicks. It should be noted, at the time Piper beat Rick, Roddy had been in earnest training for his upcoming closed-circuit title match with Hulk Hogan.

The entire wrestling world will sorely miss Rick 'Quick Draw' McGraw. He faced a great deal of adversity and gallantly dealt with many of the mat's heaviest ruffians. We have lost a good man.



The muscular 236-pounder—Rick McGraw. He will be missed by all.



Rick and his mother Mrs. H. Dunlap.

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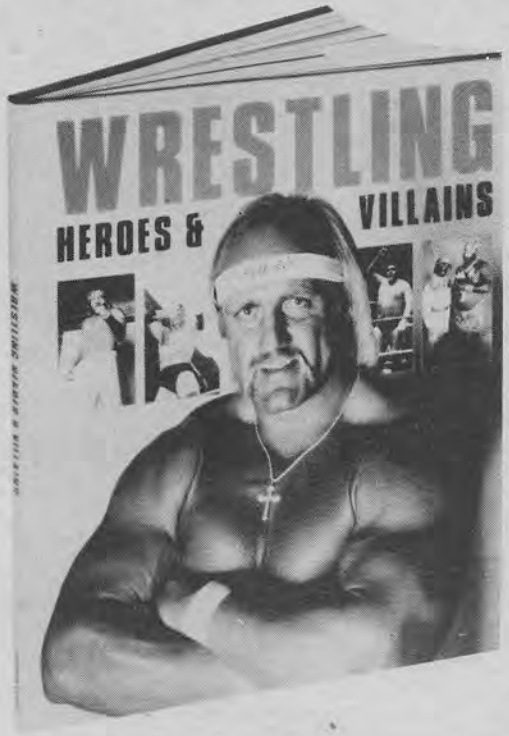

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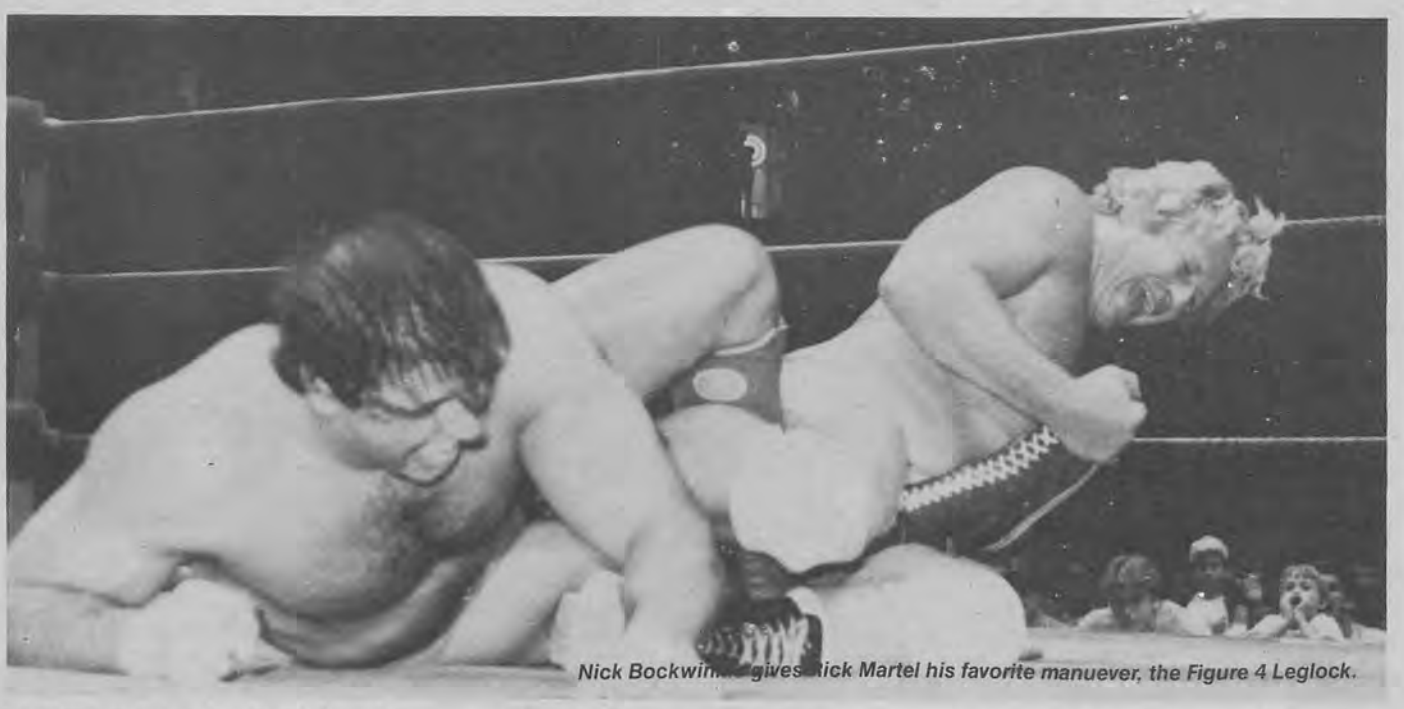
NICK BOCKWINKLE

Waiting For Lightning To Strike Again



Nick Bockwinkle gives Rick Martel his favorite manuever, the Figure 4 Leglock.

Photos and story by Frank Amato

The AWA World Heavyweight Championship is currently held by Rick Martel. It's his first title reign and so far he shows no signs of relinquishing the large silver belt. Standing in the wings looking on with a keen eye is Nick Bockwinkle. Nick is no stranger to the AWA World Heavyweight Championship, as he himself held this illustrious title three times. Nick wants to make it number four if he has anything that can be done about it.

The very first time Nick Bockwinkle ascended to win the AWA World Heavyweight Championship was on November 8, 1975 in St. Paul Minnesota, beating legend Verne Gagne. Three years, eight months and seven days later on July 18, 1980 in Chicago, Illinois, Nick's first title reign ended in his losing to Verne Gagne. In that time Nick defended the title against such top mat stars as: Crusher Lisowski, Verne Gagne, Jim Brunzell, Greg Gagne, Maurice "Mad Dog" Vachon, Andre The Giant, Billy Robinson among others. Having been champion once only wetted Nick's appetite to regain the belt. He tried many times, only to come up short. In fact Verne Gagne's last title defense was against Nick on May 10, 1981 at St. Paul, Minnesota in which Gagne pinned Nick. Verne Gagne retired from active wrestling on this very same night.

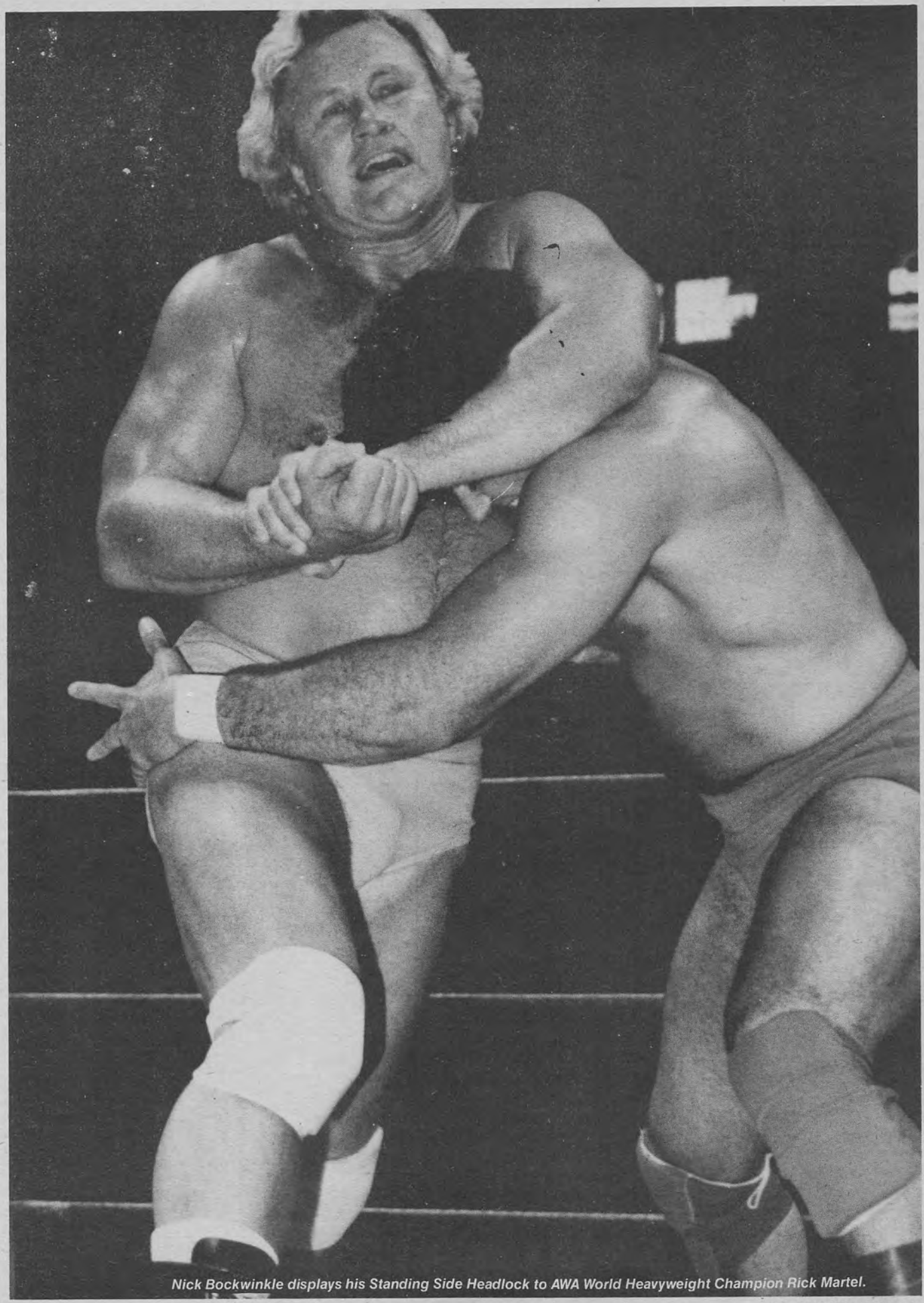
At first the AWA had voted to hold a round-robin tournament to decide a new champion. They later voted down the tournament in favor of giving the belt back to Nick Bockwinkle, as he was the number one contender. Nick successfully defended his title until he faced huge Otto Wanz from Austria in August 1982. Otto may have stunned Nick and the world of wrestling, but in October 1982 Otto Wanz lost the belt back to Bockwinkle in a rematch. It was Tommy "Jumbo" Tsuruta who finally ended Bockwinkle's third AWA title reign.

From the time Nick had been handed the AWA belt until Jumbo Tsuruta came along from Japan, he defended his belt against Billy Robinson, Pedro Morales, Greg Gagne, Jim Brunzell, Baron Fritz Von Raschke, Rick Martel, Hulk Hogan and Jerry Lawler. Not only did Bockwinkle lose the AWA title but, after several months of failing to regain it, he also lost the services of his longtime manager of ten years, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. Heenan decided to manage in the WWF where he still remains.

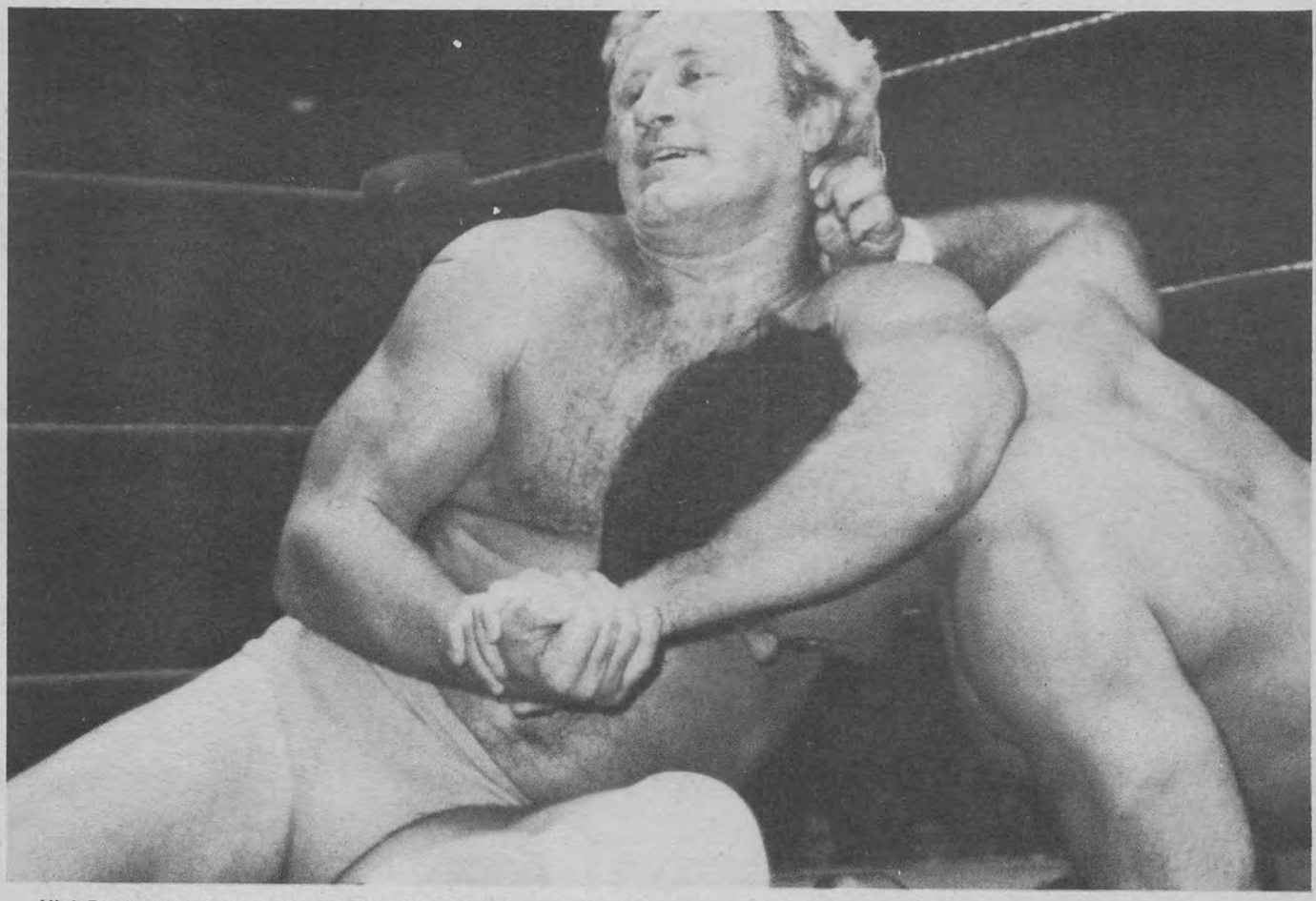
Nick Bockwinkle is mostly remembered for holding the AWA World Heavyweight Championship three times, but he also has been knee-deep in the AWA World Tag Team Championship. In Denver, Colorado on January 20, 1972, teamed with Ray "Crippler" Stevens, they won the belts from Red Bastein and Crusher Liswoski. On July 21, 1974 in Green Bay, Wisconsin, it was Crusher Lisowski and Billy Robinson beating Nick and Ray for the belts.

Three months later Nick Bockwinkle and Ray Stevens regained the tag belts from Billy Robinson and Crusher Lisowski in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada on October 24, 1974. It wasn't until August 16, 1975, in Chicago, Illinois, that Nick and Ray lost the belts to Dick the Bruiser and Crusher Lisowski, the wrestling cousins.

Nick Bockwinkle has been wrestling professionally for twenty-five

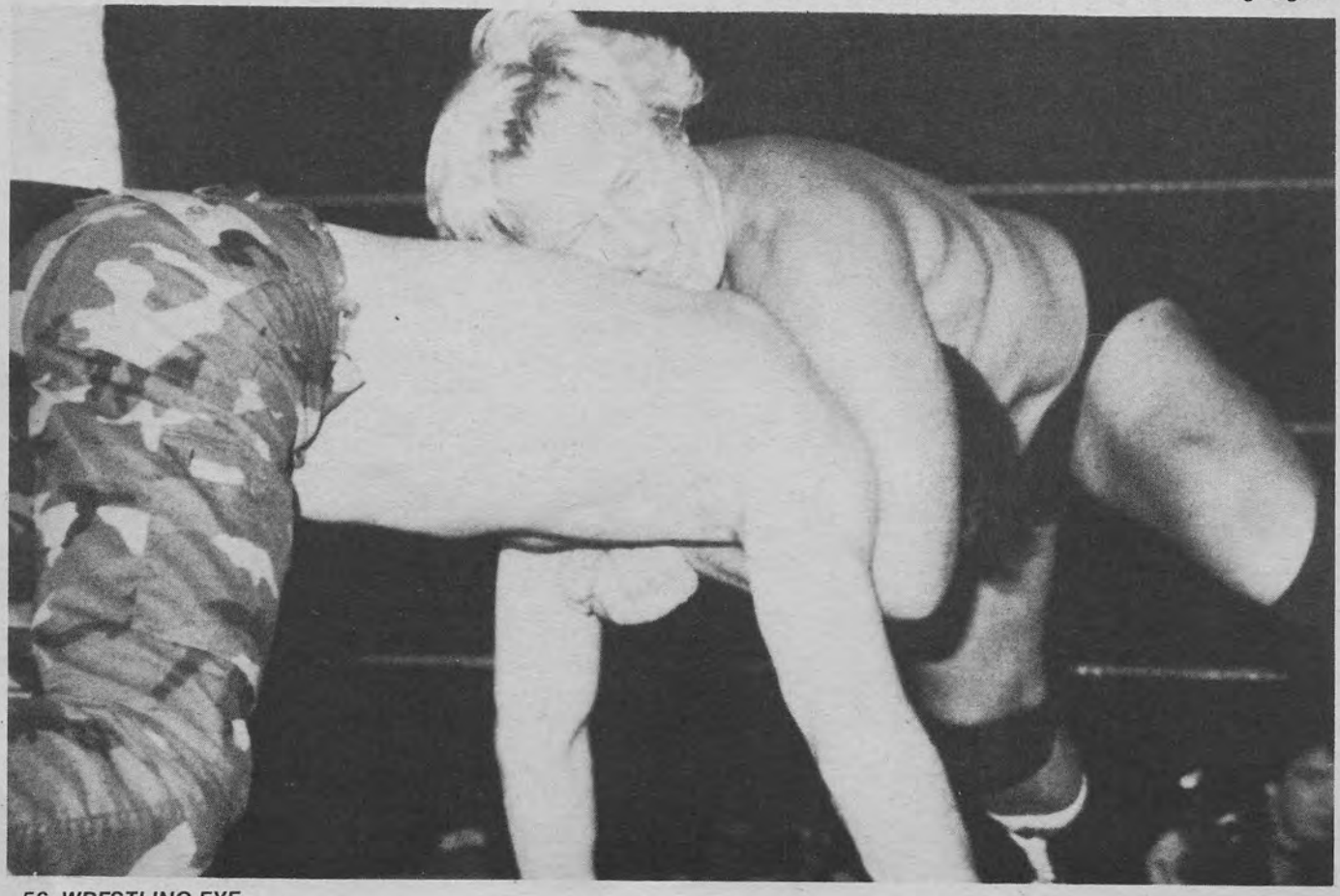


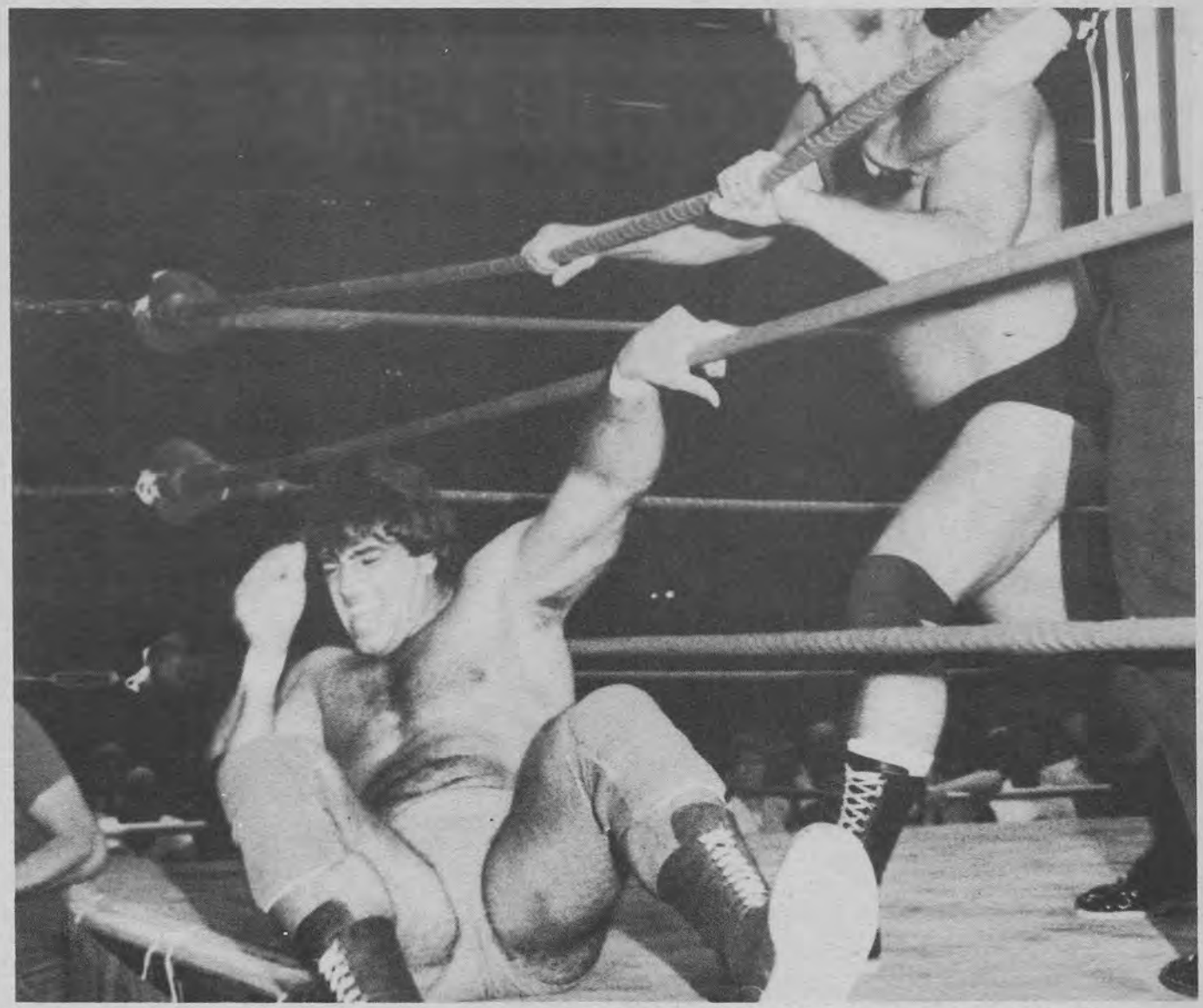
Nick Bockwinkle displays his Standing Side Headlock to AWA World Heavyweight Champion Rick Martel.



Nick Bockwinkle is confident with this Side Headlock on Rick Martel.

Nick Bockwinkle uses Frontfact Headlock on Greg Gagne.





Nick Bockwinkle sends Rick Martel from the ring with vicious kicks.

years. His father, Warren Bockwinkle, was a successful mat star before him. When Nick first started his pro mat career he abided by the rules, but as the years followed he turned more aggressive. It was at this point that Nick's career moved swiftly.

Then Nick Bockwinkle aligned himself with Bobby Heenan and history was soon made. For over ten years it was Heenan who guided the career of Nick throughout his championship years. Ask any AWA wrestling fan and they would tell you how Heenan preserved Nick's titles many, many times with outside interference.

"We were a team," Nick says of his association with Bobby Heenan. "Bobby was protecting my interests. If he did indeed interfere it was because my opponents were getting away with breaking the rules. I consider it a matter of observation. If I break a rule, then I'm wrong in the eyes of those subhuman cretins called fans. If my opponents did the same thing, that was fine. It was the same with Bobby Heenan. We enjoyed some glorious years. We had some down moments, but we enjoyed far more success. Just look at the record."

Since being the ex-champion, which Nick Bockwinkle does not enjoy, he has had many chances to regain the AWA World Heavyweight Championship from Rick Martel. So far he has fallen short, but he's given Martel some tough moments.

Nick has these comments, "Rick Martel has become a fine AWA champion, but I'm better and he knows it. I've come close many times and Martel knows it can happen at any given moment. It *will* happen."

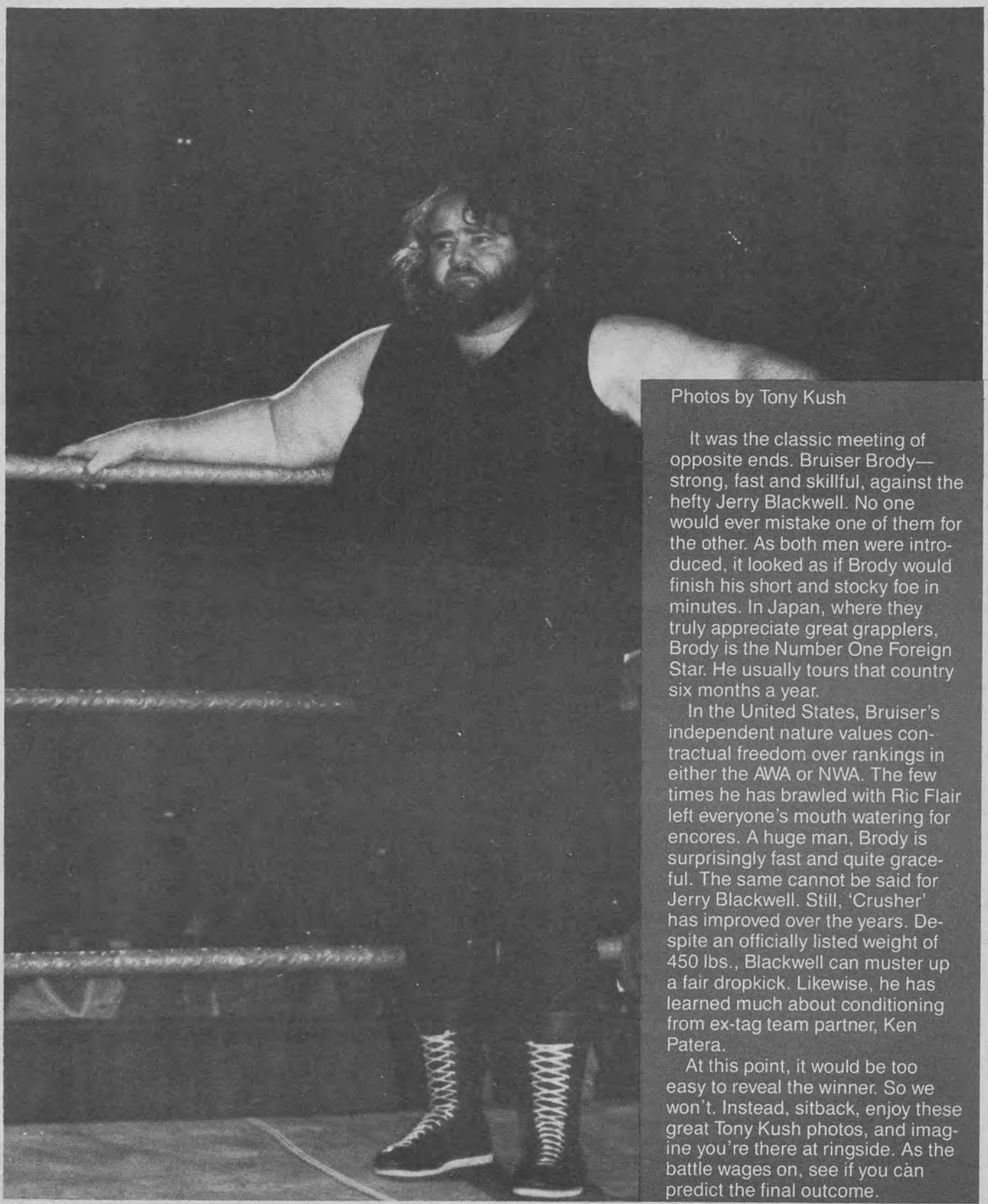
Of late Nick Bockwinkle has also rekindled his friendship with Ray "Crippler" Stevens, and has made another close friendship with Larry Zbyszko, the self-proclaimed New Living Legend. The quest is the AWA World Tag Team Championship. Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin and Steve Regal currently hold these belts, having upset The Road Warriors in early September.

"I really don't care who holds the tag belts,' says Nick. "I know Larry and myself could win those belts. Ray and myself have held these belts before. Perhaps it may be Ray and Larry. We can do it all. I just hope that Garvin and Regal have the guts to face us."

If wrestling fans have written off Nick Bockwinkle's chances from becoming a champion again, they could be in for a rude awakening. He's come back before and will surely come back again. You can't hold back the great ones.

MATCH OF THE MONTH

Bruiser Brody vs. Jerry 'Crusher' Blackwell

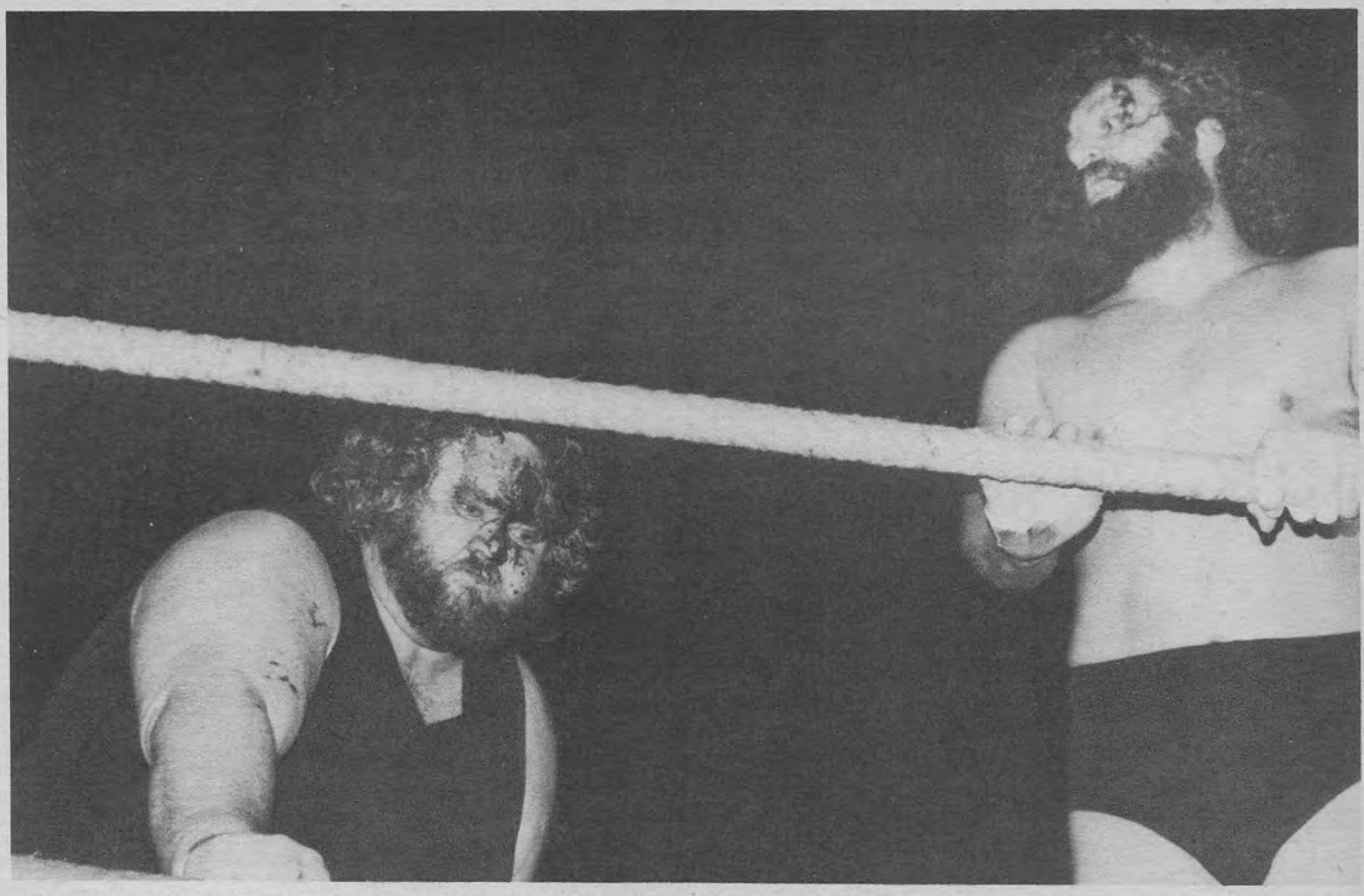


Photos by Tony Kush

It was the classic meeting of opposite ends. Bruiser Brody—strong, fast and skillful, against the hefty Jerry Blackwell. No one would ever mistake one of them for the other. As both men were introduced, it looked as if Brody would finish his short and stocky foe in minutes. In Japan, where they truly appreciate great grapplers, Brody is the Number One Foreign Star. He usually tours that country six months a year.

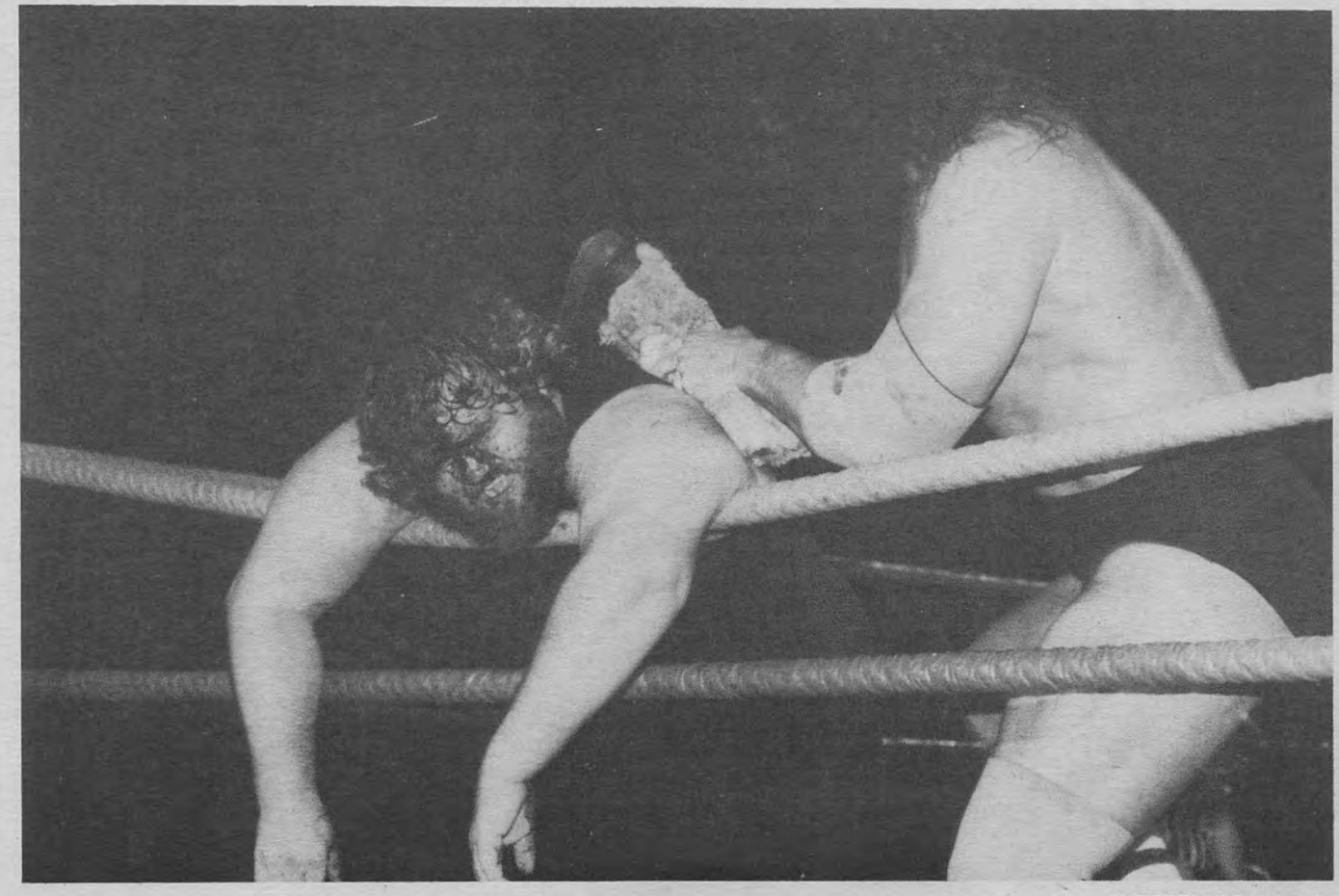
In the United States, Bruiser's independent nature values contractual freedom over rankings in either the AWA or NWA. The few times he has brawled with Ric Flair left everyone's mouth watering for encores. A huge man, Brody is surprisingly fast and quite graceful. The same cannot be said for Jerry Blackwell. Still, 'Crusher' has improved over the years. Despite an officially listed weight of 450 lbs., Blackwell can muster up a fair dropkick. Likewise, he has learned much about conditioning from ex-tag team partner, Ken Patera.

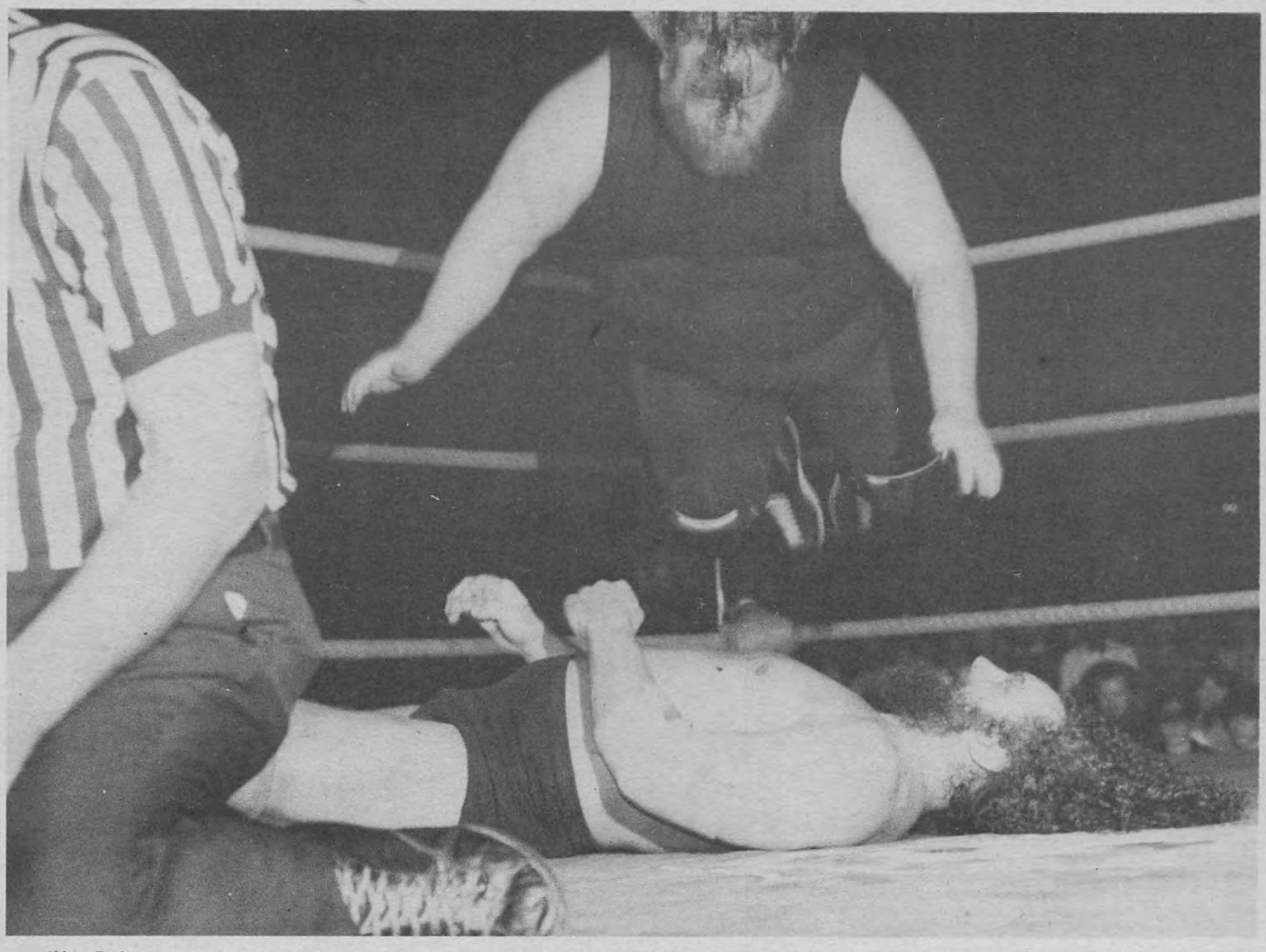
At this point, it would be too easy to reveal the winner. So we won't. Instead, sitback, enjoy these great Tony Kush photos, and imagine you're there at ringside. As the battle wages on, see if you can predict the final outcome.



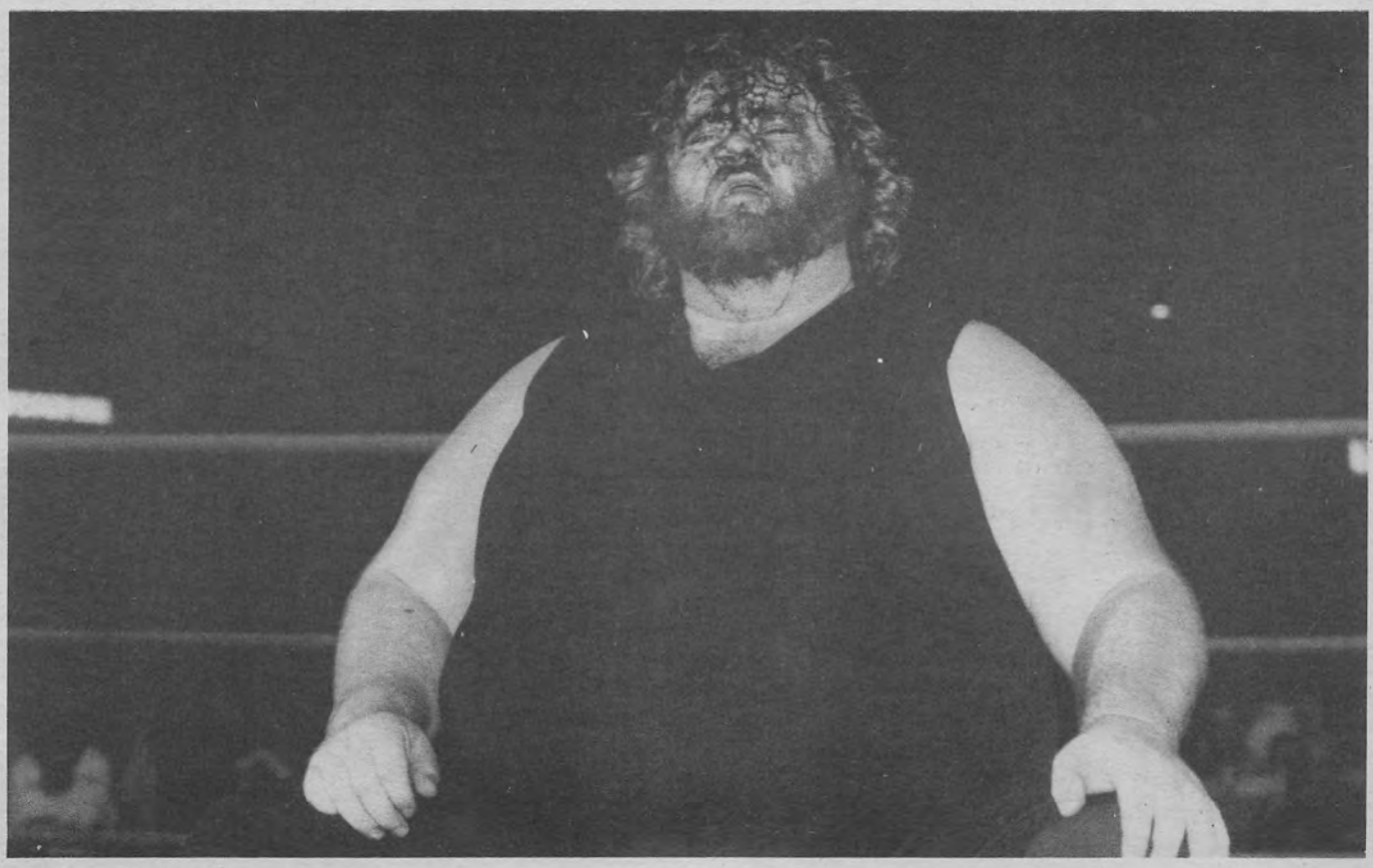
The match takes a sadistic twist as Brody strikes out with boot in hand. Blackwell had been bloodied earlier on, after Bruiser raked him across the face.

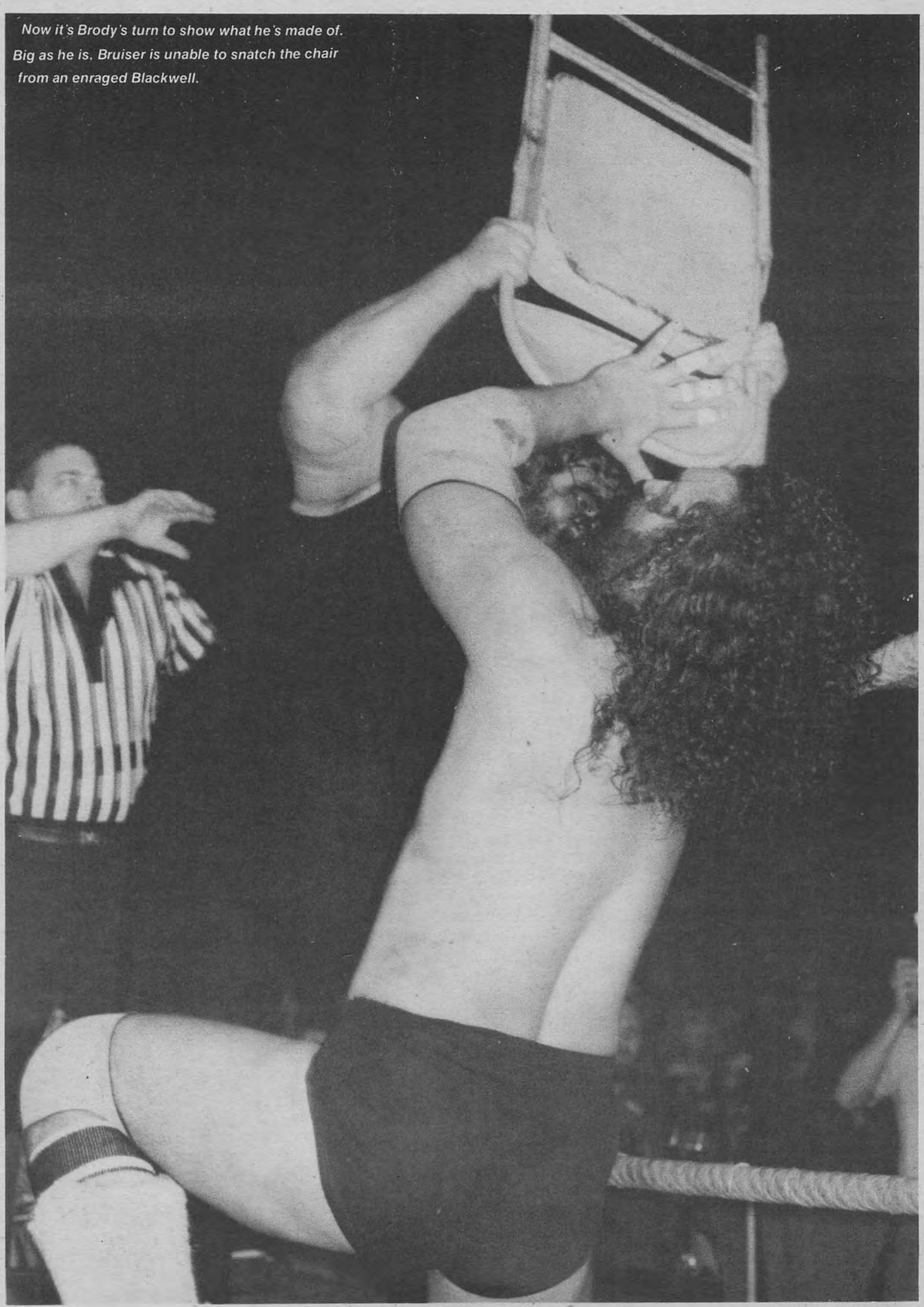
Dazed and incoherent, Blackwell is about to take a trip head-first out of the ring.





'Hey Referee, turn around,' shouted ringsiders. The 'Spash' sets-up a Blackwell win. But, Brody kicks-out and dashes for the dressing room.





Now it's Brody's turn to show what he's made of. Big as he is, Bruiser is unable to snatch the chair from an enraged Blackwell.

A Salute To The Junior Heavyweights

Photos and story by Michael O'Hara

One of the most unfortunate aspects of North American Pro-Wrestling is it's lack of attention to the *real* performers in the sport, namely the junior heavyweights. These athletes, ranging in weights from 200 lbs. to 235 lbs., bring new meaning to the word 'action.' It is in this article that we salute some of the truly great junior-heavies by looking at some of the top mat men of the eighties.

Terry Taylor

TIGER MASK: While fans in the United States have only had brief encounters with this sensational mat technician, his name and fame have found their way around the world. This masked man's character is based upon a popular Japanese comic book hero in the tradition of Batman, and his ring abilities are just as incredible as his four-color counterpart. If you ever get the opportunity to see this spectacular star in action, either live or by way of video tape, you're in for the wrestling treat of your life.

DYNAMITE KID: Tom Billington has captured the hearts and minds of Canadian and American fans with his unbelievable ring tactics. Fortunately for "the Kid", he began his career in England where there is a weight division system. Starting as a middleweight and working his way up the ladder to mid-heavyweight allowed this mat man to develop his unique skills. In the late 1970's he made the trip across the sea and captured the World Mid-Heavyweight title in Canada. With his recent splash in the United States, I predict many big things for this ring master. The Dynamite Kid is, indeed, explosive!

LES THORNTON: One of the most enduring and rugged wrestlers to come over from Europe. He has travelled the width and breadth of the globe, and his impressive winning record reflects his never-say-die attitude. Since establishing himself in the United States a little over ten years ago, he has proven that he can slug it out with the most unorthodox brawler a well as excel against a scientific competitor.

JOSE ESTRADA: One of the most underrated performers of his time period. Estrada, who now restricts his matches to his native Puerto Rico, was the first WWF World Junior-Heavyweight champion. He lost it a short time later to the exciting mat ace, Tatsumi Fujinami, who has since become a full-fledged heavyweight star in the land of the Rising Sun.

GREG GAGNE: He is known in the AWA as the "giant killer." Greg can resort to street brawls as effectively as the ponderous behemoths. His successes for the most part, however, have been in tag team competition.

STEVE REGAL: He is perhaps not as technical or as flashy in the execution of his moves as the other junior-heavies, but his ability to think several steps ahead of his opponents have made him a force to reckon with in the lighter weight division. He currently holds the AWA light-heavyweight crown, but it should be noted that there is little competition in his weight division within this wrestling promotion. The AWA should either eliminate the title or expand the division by bringing in fresh new talent.

TERRY TAYLOR: Here is a young man who continues to make impressive strides as both a junior and heavyweight competitor. Terry has a keen sense of fair play, and prefers to stand by his amateur mat traditions by keeping his man down on the mat as much as possible.

EDDIE GILBERT: Ed is a second generation junior-heavy wrestler and he has certainly learned his lessons well from his father, Tommy. He has a style akin to Olympic freestyle, which confuses many of his rivals. While Eddie has made great progress, he has still not yet reached his potential. The best is yet to come for young Eddie Gilbert.

BOBBY EATON: He is a young man who has really taken off in the last few years. His association with Dennis Condrey (as the Midnight Express) has brought them to the

Les Thornton—a rugged wrestler with an impressive winning record.

forefront of tag team contention.

CHIC DONOVAN: Easily the most underrated and under-utilized wrestler of *ALL* time. How this man has not been snatched up by some insightful promoter is beyond me! Chic possesses exceptional mat skill, an unsurpassed physique and a magnetic ring personality. Chic should have made it a long, long time ago and it is definitely time to take him out of the opening contests and into the main events where he now, rightfully belongs.

The junior-heavyweights of the sport face enormous odds each time they enter the squared circle, and yet they push themselves beyond their own limits to come away a victor and to give the fans their money's worth. They are truly one of the best things about the sport of pro-wrestling, and their appearances on the cards should receive some recognition. While it would be almost impossible to list and pay tribute to all the great junior-heavies, this article has been one man's attempt at saying to all junior-heavyweights—"Thanks for being here. Your great talents are appreciated!"

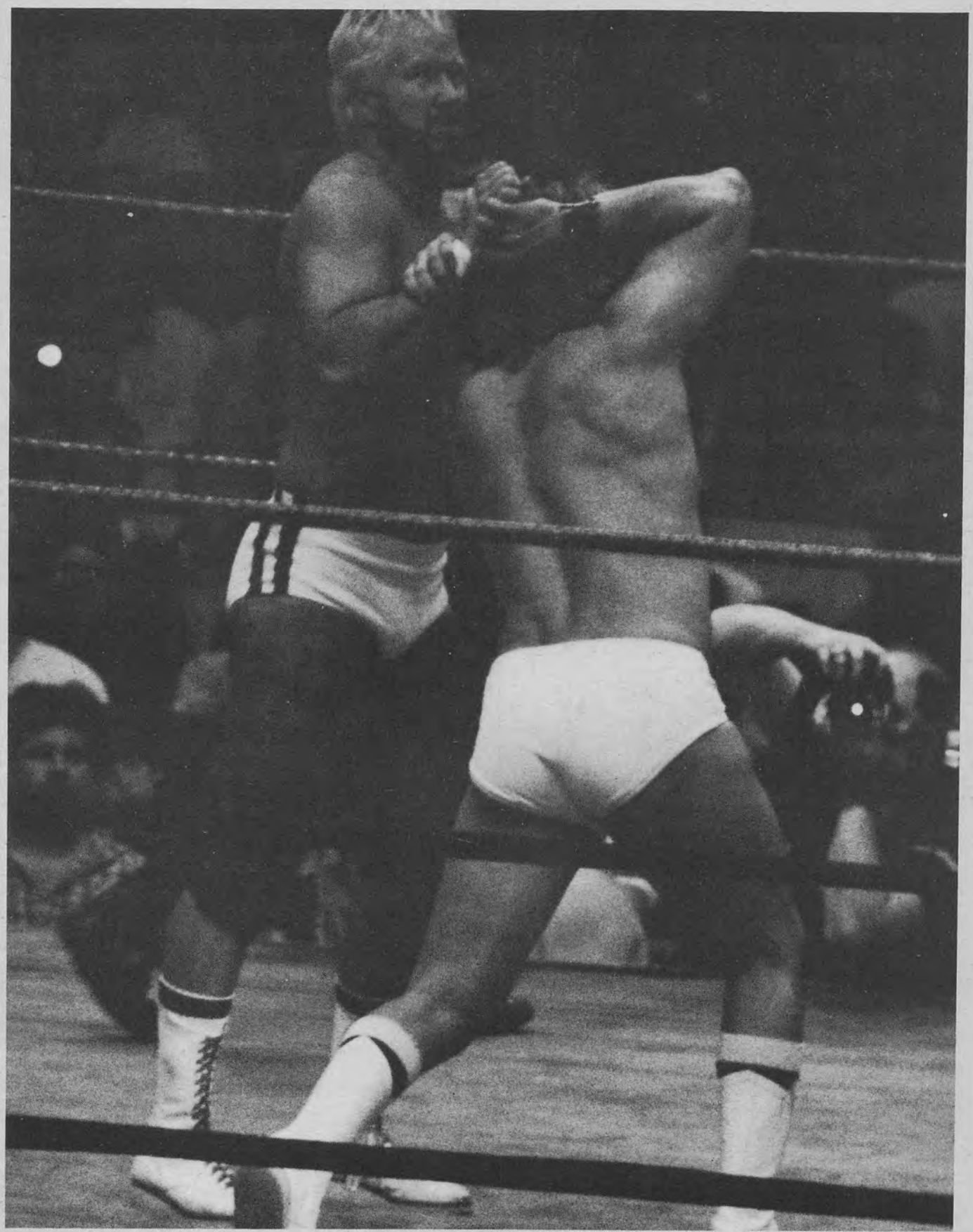
forefront of tag team contention.

Bobby's rough-and-tumble style, which is accompanied by an explosive variation on amateur movies, is reminiscent of a younger Bob Orton, Jr.

STEVE KEIRN: Steve has changed his style quite a bit over the years, going from a down-on-the-mat execution to a more high-flying, flashy ring tradition. Both styles have proven to be extremely successful.

JOE SAVOLDI: Although he's relatively unknown to most at this point, this second generation performer is a man to watch. He's fast and strong. Couple this with a ring philosophy beyond his years, and you have a wrestler who cannot help but rise right to the top of the junior-heavyweight ranks.

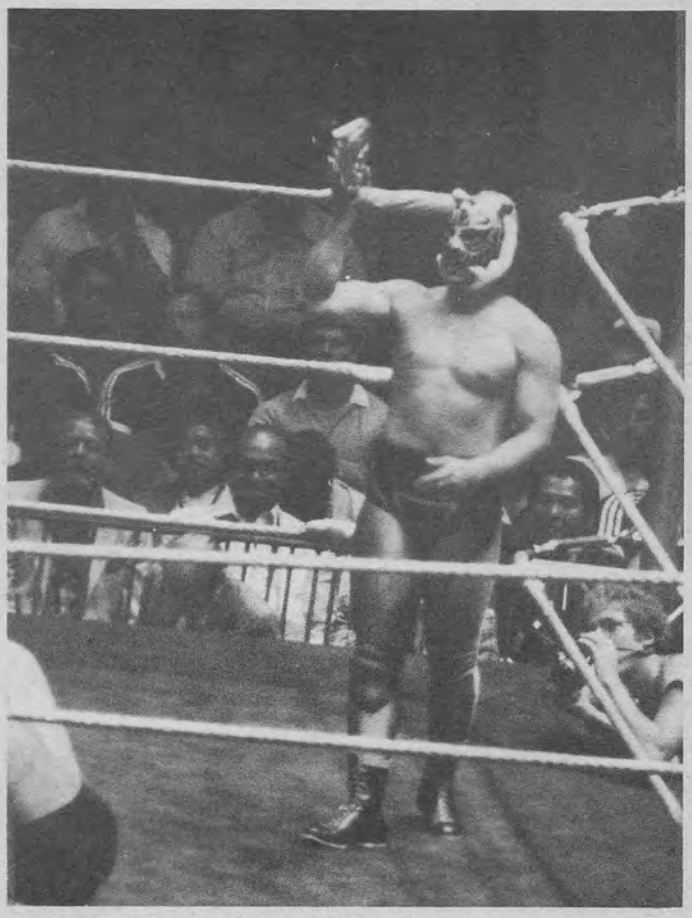
LARRY WINTERS: A rookie journeyman of the sport, Larry has proven to have more heart and desire than ten other wrestlers put together. A pleasing ring style and effective maneuvers make Mr. Winters an odds-on favorite to make it big. All this young man needs right now is the opportunity



Steve Regal—AWA jr. heavyweight champion.

to showcase his ability to the wrestling world. Hopefully there is an intelligent promoter out there, somewhere, who will take this hint!

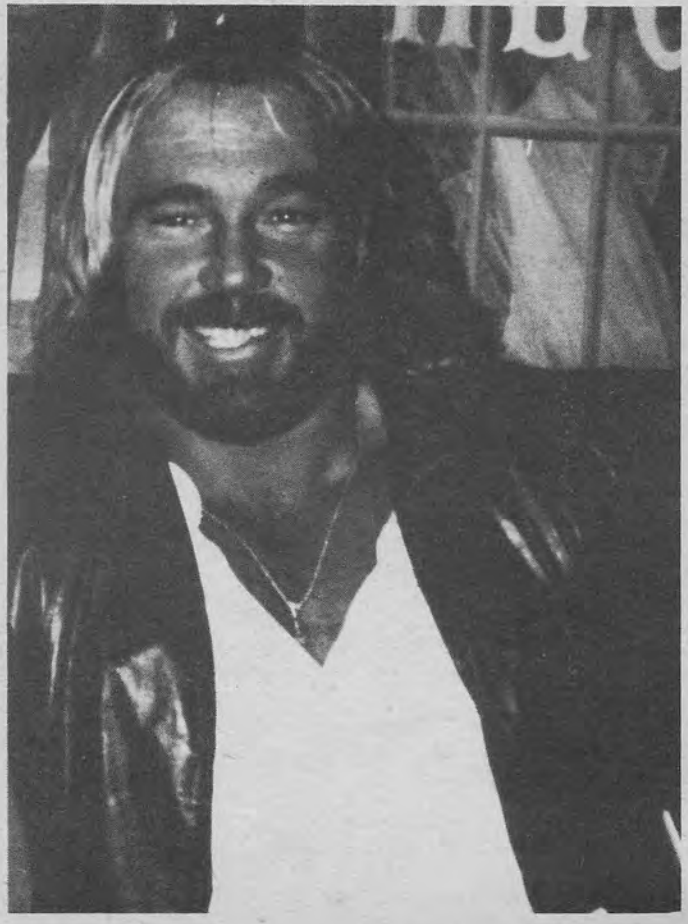
STEVE KING: This long-time WWF mat performer could easily have made it big had he done some travelling into areas which were more conducive to junior-heavyweight competition. While King has shown great ability and strength, he was, unfortunately, never promoted in such a way which highlighted his exceptional abilities.



Tiger Mask—a sensational mat technician

Jose Estrada was the first WWF World Jr. Heavyweight champion.

Steve Keirn's style is flashy and high flying.



Steve King—a long-time WWF matman. King has great ability and strength.

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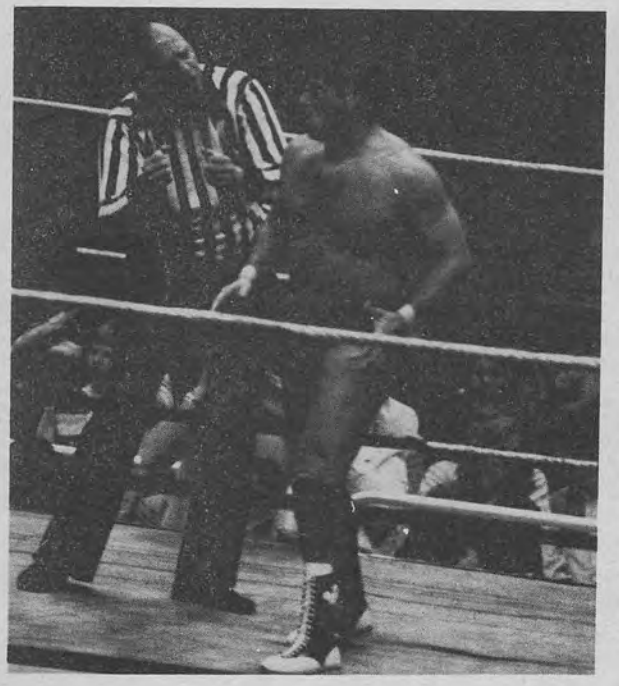

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THE PHANTOM OF THE RING

The recent death of Ric McGraw is only the latest in a line of tragic and near-tragic deaths in the last year and a half. Other young wrestlers who have succumbed during this period include Hoagie Young, David Von Erich, and Jay Youngblood. Near tragedies include Mike Von Erich and Jesse Ventura. These are all young men; McGraw was listed as being 30 years old at the time of his death. His demise attributed to natural causes; most likely, heart failure. This is the leading killer of young wrestlers; no matter what the critics say, wrestling is a grueling sport. But what is even more of a tragedy in these cases is the lack of any sort of normal employee benefits, such as hospitalization, pension, unemployment benefits, etc. Perhaps with better examinations from state "athletic" commissions, some of these tragedies could be avoided. I used that last phrase loosely, for state athletic commissions by and large treat wrestling much too lightly. With better policing, we'd all be better off.

Gone but not forgotten dep't: Mr. Saito (Masanori Saito) was recently turned down for parole. Though a model prisoner, the parole board was far more swayed by the nature of the crime. Saito was also the subject of an interview by Riki Chosyu, fellow wrestler and friend, for Japanese television. Saito's partner-in-crime, Ken Patera, has been far less than a model prisoner, and was transferred to a maximum security prison.

Is there hope for women's wrestling? Yes, if the deal between the WWF and the Japanese Womens Promotion is successful. McMahon recently brought in the Crush Girls, Japan's most popular duo, and Dump Matsumoto for an introduction from the seats at the October MSG show. The Japanese women may actually brighten the dismal picture of women's wrestling at the moment. While the current WWF champion, Wendi Richter, is more than satisfactory, her crop of opponents couldn't work their way out of a paper bag. Give Wendi some real competition and we'll see just how good she is.

The WWF Wrestling Classic did fairly well—60,000 saw it on Pay-TV. Pictured here with Piper.

Bob Backlund has retired from pro wrestling and is now coaching at Central Connecticut State University. With Bob as a coach, those kids may not always win but they'll be the best coached team in the East. Bob was featured in an issue of *U.S.A. Today*, during the course of which he challenged Hulk Hogan to a straight match. If this match ever came off, the only question would be just how many times Bob would pin the Hulk dur-

Nick Bockwinkle is trying to change his image. The infamous badman is going good.

ing a space of three minutes, or otherwise tie him into a knot. Backlund was one of the greatest, and least appreciated, wrestling champions of all time. If he were judged on his wrestling ability alone, practically no one could come near him. But it was that lack of showmanship, the ability to sell oneself, that caused Bob his charisma problems with the fans. What also hurt was the fact that he was champion of the WWF, a small (at the time) regional promotion.

With the addition of Mad Dog Vachon, the Mongolian Stomper, and the Might Igor to a cast that already includes Baron Von Raschke, Verne Gagne, Nick Bockwinkle, Ray Stevens, and sometimes, the Bruiser and the Crusher, the AWA is beginning to stand for the "Ancient Wrestling Federation." Verne, you need new blood more than you think.

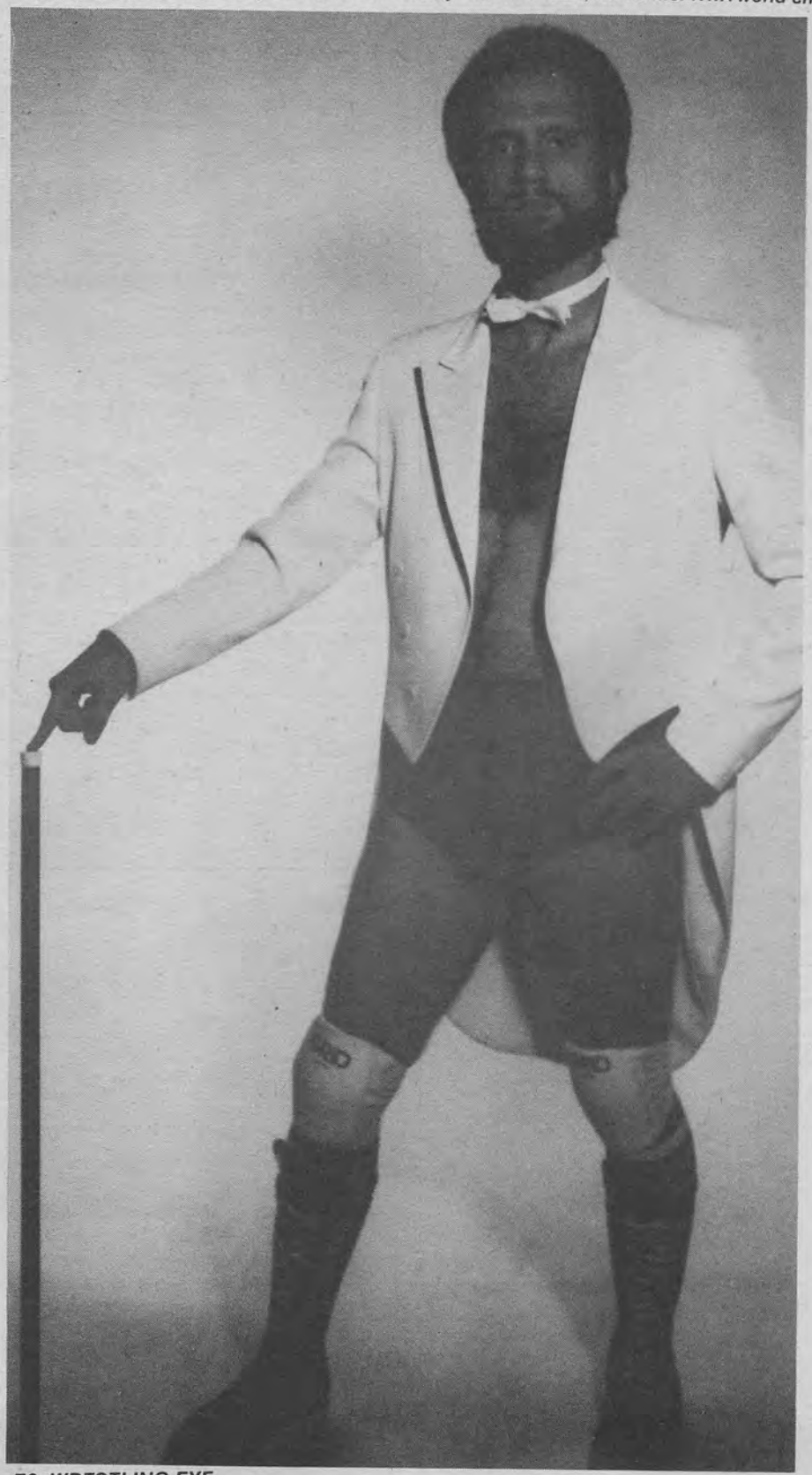
Short Takes: Am I wrong, or is there a personality resemblance between Vince McMahon and Brent Musberger of CBS?...Nikita Koloff definitely the best-looking wrestler to step into a ring, until he actually has to work, that is...Now the AWA has come out with wrestling dolls and ring. Too bad two of the dolls, Steve Keirn and Stan Lane, no longer work for the AWA...Here's wishing the revived Calgary promotion of Stu Hart takes off. After all, there has to be some training ground for young grapplers to develop into the stars of tomorrow.

Lenore Kallay reports—Judge John West gave the Iron Sheik accelerated rehabilitation and a year's probation for 'allegedly' slapping a 17-year-old gas attendant. The Sheik claimed the boy, Antonio Torrez, had threatened him with a tire iron. Only then did he slap Torrez. A report filed by Connecticut State Police agreed with the Sheik's story, saying: "the attendant aggravated the situation by wielding the iron."...Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Nick Bockwinkle has decided to go good for awhile. The ex-AWA champion wants to hear 'Cheers' not 'Jeers'...Rookie Edcar Boo Thomas is still offering $500.00 to any pro wrestler who can pin him in 10 minutes or less ...The Missing Link is missing in the WWF.

ROOKIE OF THE MONTH

Jerry 'Mr. Heartthrob' Rich

The dashing Mr. Rich. Jerry is a cousin of Tommy 'Wildfire' Rich, the former NWA world champion.



Jerry Rich was born on November 8, 1960, in Durham, North Carolina. A true southern gentleman, Jerry was active in junior high and high school sports. In his final year of secondary schooling, Rich was a state free-style wrestling finalist.

Being the cousin of former NWA world champ Tommy "Wildfire' Rich, Jerry had always been interested in professional wrestling. His boyhood hero was the equally flashy Rip Hawk. However, like so many other young men and women, Jerry didn't know how to break into the field. Finally, a friend of his introduced him to wrestling manager Barry 'Playboy' Hill. At the time, Hill was busy managing the careers of Jim Tucker and the Late Brute Bernard. He didn't really have time to start working with a raw amateur, but he did get Jerry a job as ring assistant for a series of I.W.A. matches in Virginia Beach, VA.

Jerry learned a great deal about the sport during those months with the I.W.A. Later, he went to a professional wrestling training camp in Hendersonville, North Carolina. For three months, he worked with top mat stars like the Mighty Igor and the Masked Superstar. Each day would start off with weight training and a five-mile jog. In the afternoon, the pro's would teach and spar with their students. Later, in the evening, the men would wrestle each other in a full-sized ring under professional conditions. Rich credits this hard work with his current success.

In his first match, Jerry Rich met 'Cowboy' Davey Jones and won. Looking like an old pro. Rich caught Jones in a picture-perfect Figure 4-leglock and submitted his opponent at the 10:20 mark.

Keep your eyes on this guy.

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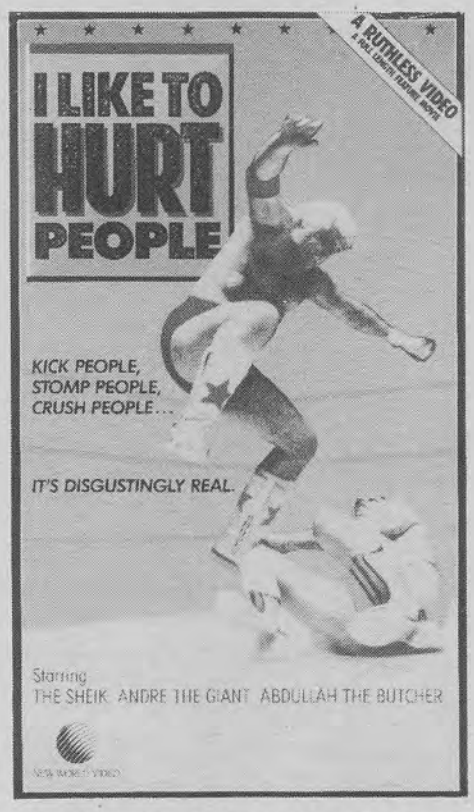

NOTICE

This is a full length feature film depicting the career of the most violent professional wrestler of all time. His name is The Shiek and " He Likes To Hurt People"

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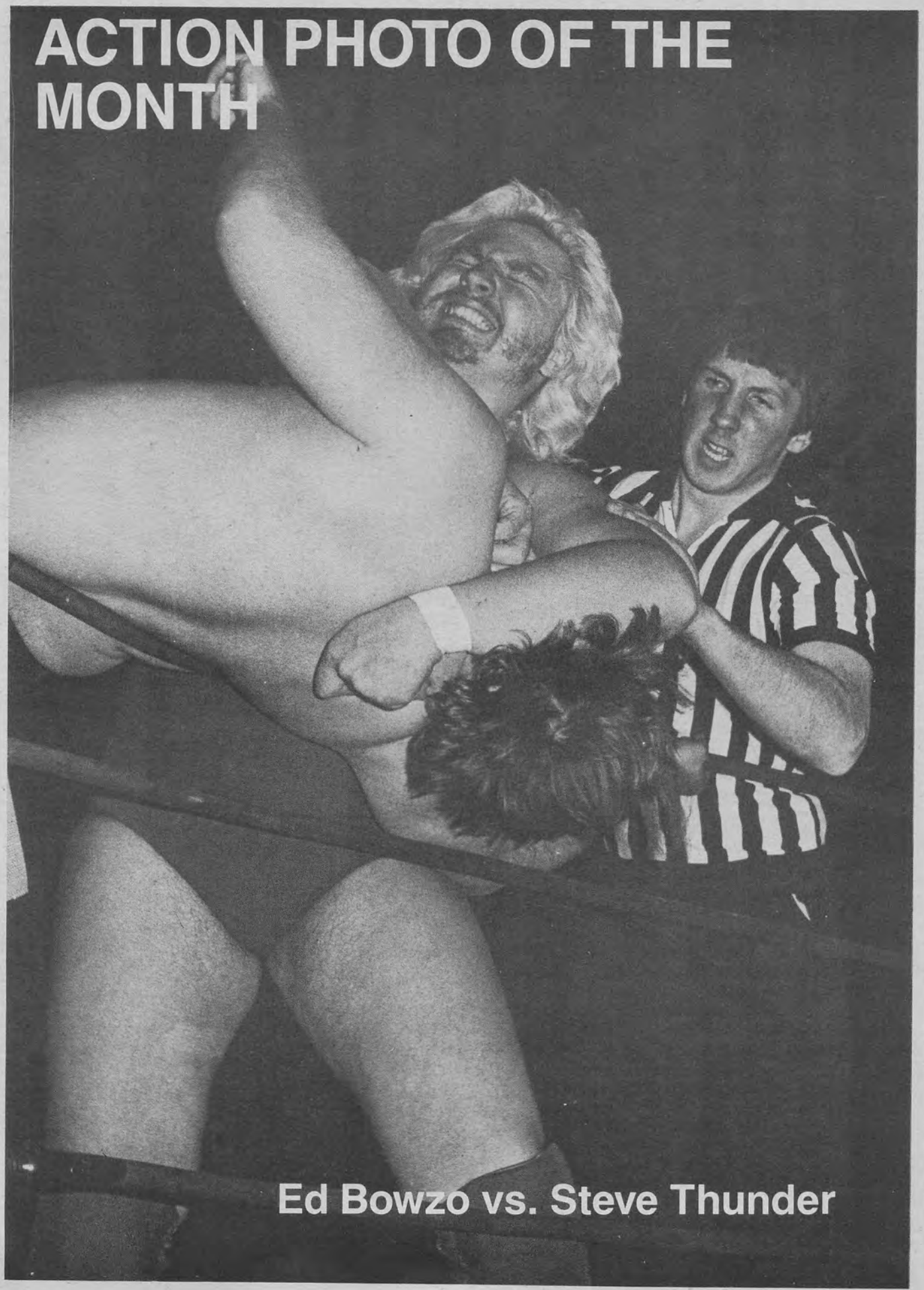


Ed Bowzo vs. Steve Thunder

WRESTLING EYE'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

World Wrestling Federation (WWF)
Heavyweight Champion—Hulk Hogan

Contenders
1. Tito Santana
2. Roddy Piper
3. Junkyard Dog
4. King Kong Bundy
5. Paul Orndorff
6. Magnificent Muraco
7. Randy Savage
8. Iron Sheik
9. Greg Valentine
10. Dave-Boy Smith

Tag Team Champions:
Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake

American Wrestling Association (AWA)
Heavyweight Champion—Stan Hansen

Contenders
1. Boris Zuchoff
2. Rick Martel
3. Sgt. Slaughter
4. Greg Gagne
5. Jerry Blackwell
6. Larry Zbyszko
7. Michael Hayes
8. Terry Gordy
9. Curt Henning
10. Nick Bockwinkle

Tag Team Champions:
Steve Regal & Jimmy Garvin

National Wrestling Alliance (NWA)
Heavyweight Champion—Ric Flair

Contenders
1. Kerry Von Erich
2. Billy Hayes
3. Dusty Rhodes
4. Wahoo McDaniel
5. Kevin Von Erich
6. Lance Von Erich
7. Magnum T.A.
8. Tully Blanchard
9. Jerry Lawler
10. Harley Race

Tag Team Champions:
Robert Gibson & Ricky Morton

Women's Ratings
World Wrestling Federation (WWF)
World's Champion—Fabulous Moolah

Contenders
1. Sheri Martel (AWA-NWA Champ)
2. Debbie Combs
3. Candi Divine
4. Wendi Richter
5. Susan Green
6. Liz Chase
7. Le Lani Kai
8. Despina Montogos
9. Susan Starr
10. Desiree Petersen

Tag Team Champions:
Velvet McIntyre & Desiree Petersen

Letters

Dear Mr. Gene Gordon,
Impressive magazine. I especially enjoyed the section on the history of women's wrestling. It seems that all of your friendly competition on the neighborhood newsstand completely overlook the women these days. Thank you for off-setting this coverage imbalance to a degree. If you want to devote a section in the next issue to Betty Boucher, I'm sure no one would mind, to put it mildly. Or Barbara Baker. You remember Barbara, don't you Gene? Or Dawn Lemke. Or Vivian Vachon. Or Kathy Starr.
Seriously, keep it up; and thanks again.

C.J. Munson
Bellevue, WA

Dear WRESTLING EYE,
I am a great wrestling fan, and I really enjoyed your November issue. It is a super magazine with a lot of interesting articles. I especially enjoy the Fan Club Column and the Media Report. I do not want to miss any exciting issues, so here's my subscription right away.

Thank you,
Mark Olson
Hutchinson, MN

Dear Sirs,
I have been waiting for a wrestling magazine like this. It is superb.

Thank you,
Charles Laidrne
Hackensack, NJ

Dear Sirs,
Thank you for providing the fans with a well written, intelligent magazine that gives us behind the scene stories. I totally enjoyed your first issue, and to prevent missing all future issues, I'd like to purchase a one-year subscription.

Ken Stocker
Bellevue, WA

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There are no sirs here, it's either Mike, John, Ed or Gene.)

To Editors: WRESTLING EYE,
Personally, I'd sooner trust a

For reader C.J. Munson, here's a closer look at girl wrestler Betty Boucher.

BETTE BOUCHER
Girl Wrestler.....Worcester, Massachusetts

SEND ALL LETTERS TO: WRESTLING EYE
310 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, NJ 07666
Att: Managing Editor

scowling Warrior with a quick temper than a smiling Rick Martel, your highly praised 'nice guy.' Your claim that Paul Ellering keeps the Warriors in such tight control is completely ridiculous. Paul is renowned for his brilliant strategy, not stupidity. If the three are now devoting all their time and energies into wrestling, that's part of why they are unquestionably the very best.

Sincerely,
Marisa Kedrowski
Stevens Point, WI

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

Your 10 Baddest of the Bad is a good list; I can make some improvements. I've talked to fans who have been around. Muraco, they say, is really a warm and friendly person when he's away from Fuji. It's hard to call Jimmy Garvin mean, just deceitful. He'll use a foreign object to win, but he isn't really trying to hurt people. The two wrestlers I'd put in Murco's and Garvin's places, are Tully Blanchard and Greg Valentine. Blanchard will psych opponents out by leaving devious phone messages. Unlike Muraco, he's obnoxious to the fans all the time. He has used his valet to bail him out. Overall, Tully's very convincing. As for Greg, he tries to put people out of wrestling. He tried to kill Roddy Piper and Tito Santana.

Sincerely,
Jim Gentry
Temple, TX

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed $24.00 for a subscription to WRESTLING EYE. Please enter my name as soon as possible as I do not wish to miss even one issue of this fine publication.

Thank you very much,
Henry Florsheim
Kew Gardens, NY

(EDITOR'S NOTE: You're welcome, Mr. Florsheim.)

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I have just purchased your first issue and one word can describe it, excellent!!

Mil Mascaras

I hope you add a section where people can write in. I am a big wrestling fan and I like to hear what other fans have to say. If possible, can you make mention of the incident that involved Ric Flair, The Andersons, and Dusty Rhodes. I feel it really lowers people's feeling about Ric Flair. How can a champion act like that? Especially since Dusty Rhodes was trying to even the odds against the Russians.

Thank you,
Glen Glenn
Vicksburg, MI

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

How in a million years have you listed David Sammartino in the Top 10 and not included Ricky Steamboat or Bob Orton, or Tony Atlas? He's nothing and hasn't beaten anyone with any ability in the WWF. I feel you should rate the America's champ number one in the NWA Top 10, the US champ number one in the AWA, and the Intercontinental champ number one in the WWF.

You brought out the real names of wrestlers into the open like Dynamite Kid and the Missing Link. Cyndi Lauper doesn't belong in wrestling, right along with Vince McMahon Jr., who belongs in a three ring circus. The WWF has failed to tell us that Randy Savage and Lanny Poffo are brothers, and that Uncle Elmer has been wrestling for 10 years as Plowboy Fraiser, the Lone Ranger and Kamala 11. It's time for the true wrestling fans to boycott the WWF.

Thanks for your time,
Wade Keller
Bloomington, MN

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This guy really knows his wrestling!)

GENE GORDON PRESENTS WOMEN IN WRESTLING

LIZ CHASE believes in keeping in top shape.

ANGEL VACHON (front) vs. PEGGY LEE.

WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP

Wendi Richter vs. Judy Martin

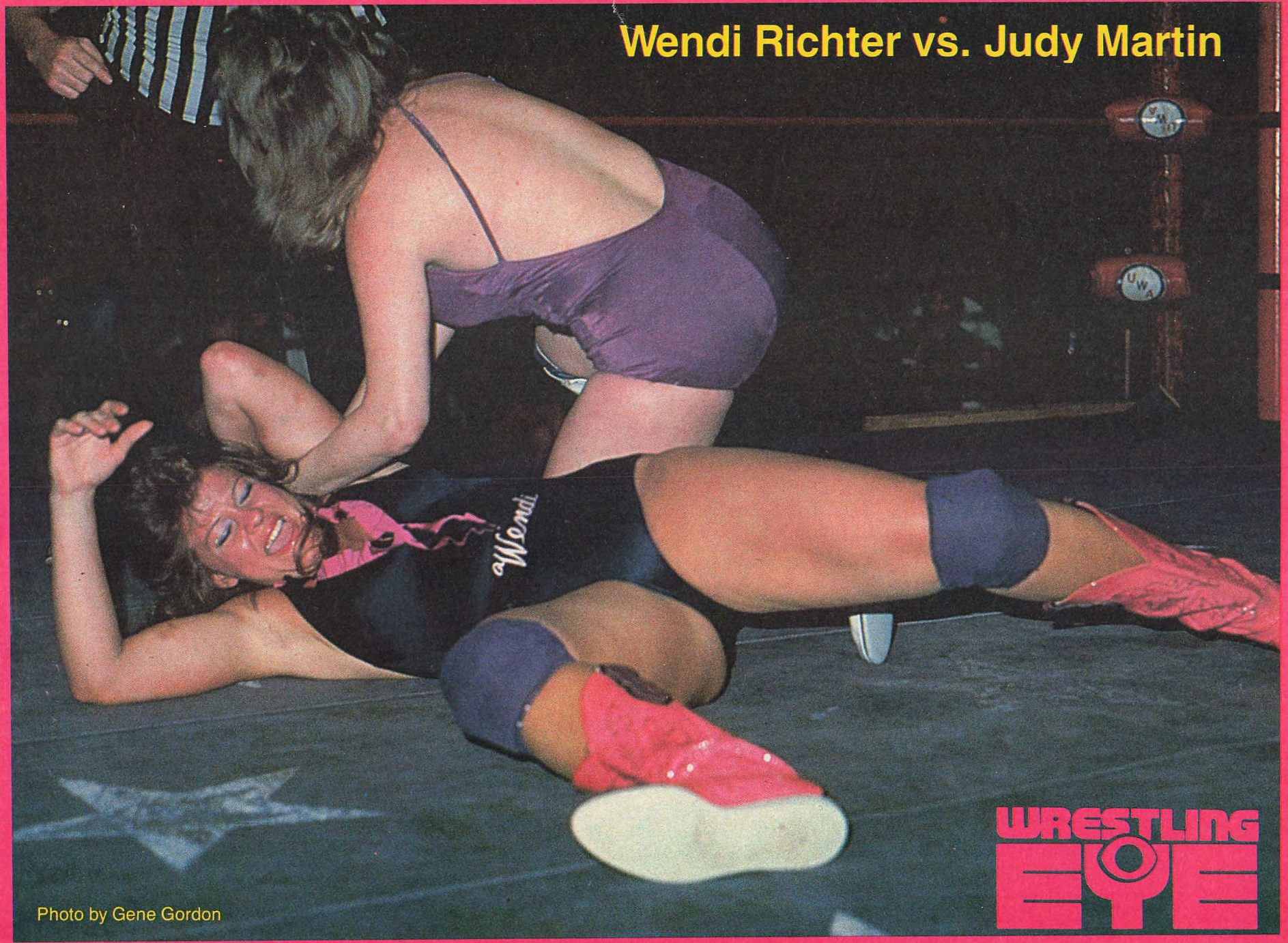
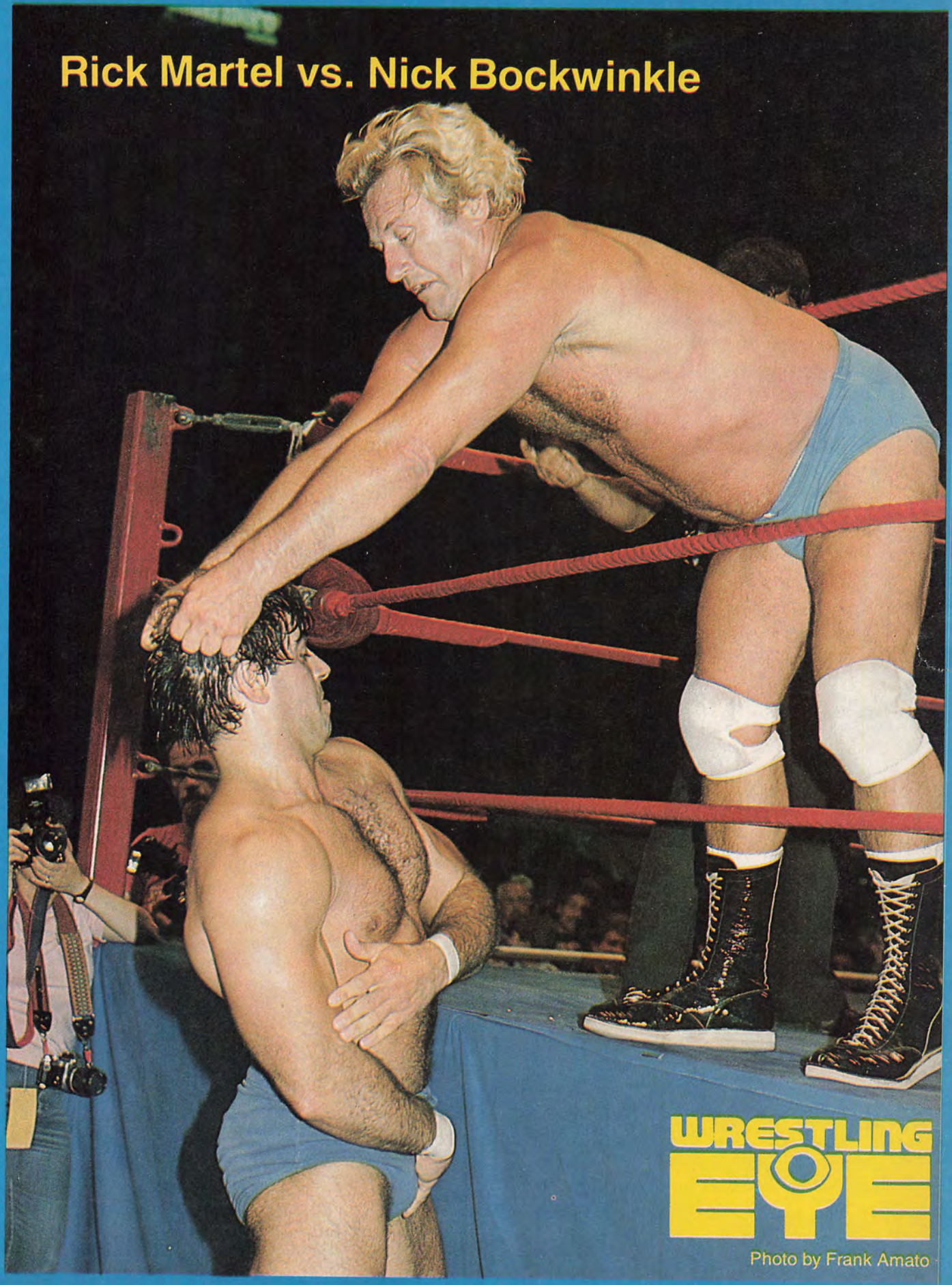


Photo by Gene Gordon

WRESTLING EYE

WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP

WRESTLING EYE PIN-UP



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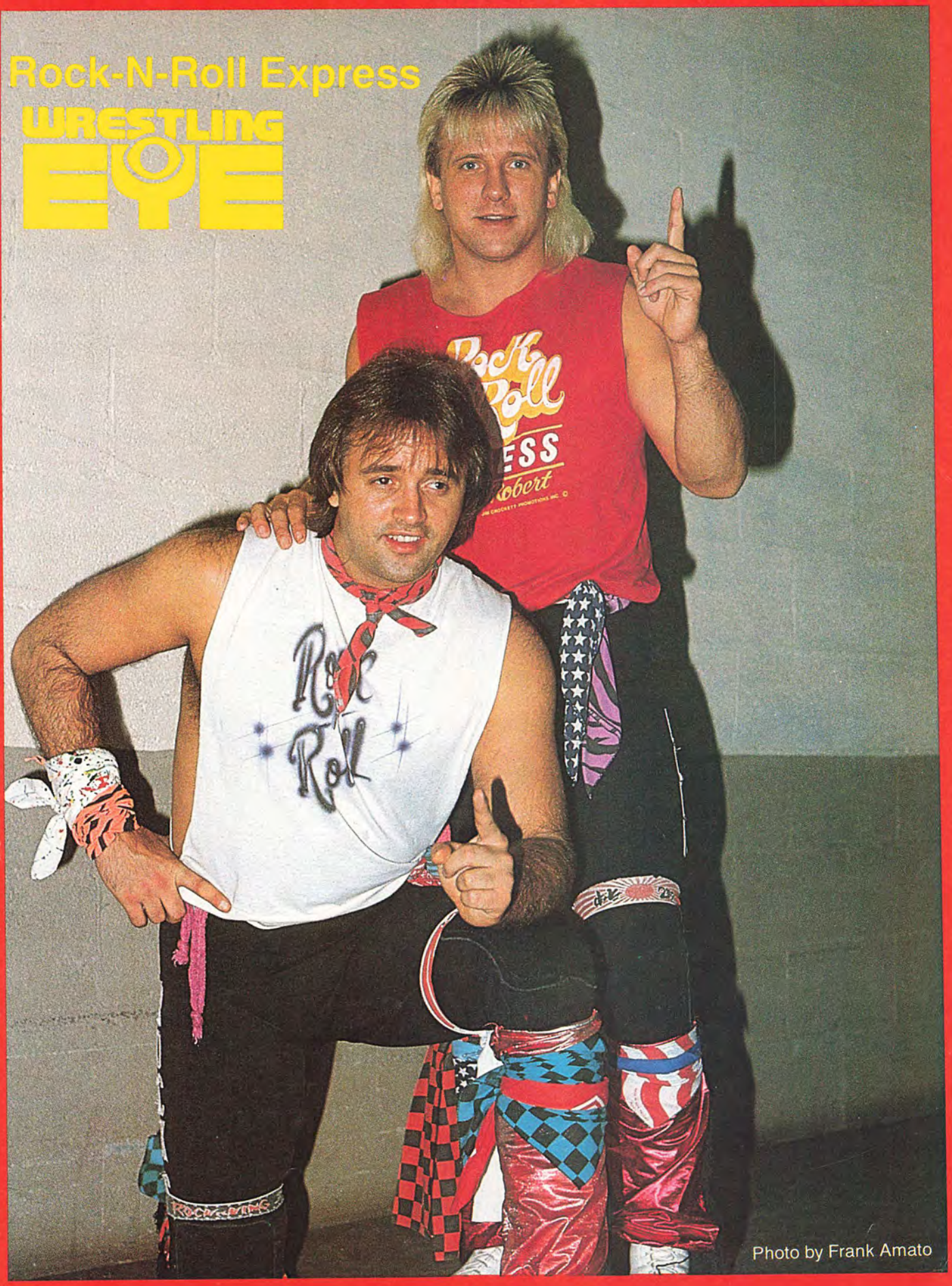

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